MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

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# MOON KNIGHT™

Stan Lee presents:

# A BOX OF MUSIC FOR SAVAGE STUDS

By *Doug Moench, Kevin Nowlan and Terry Austin*

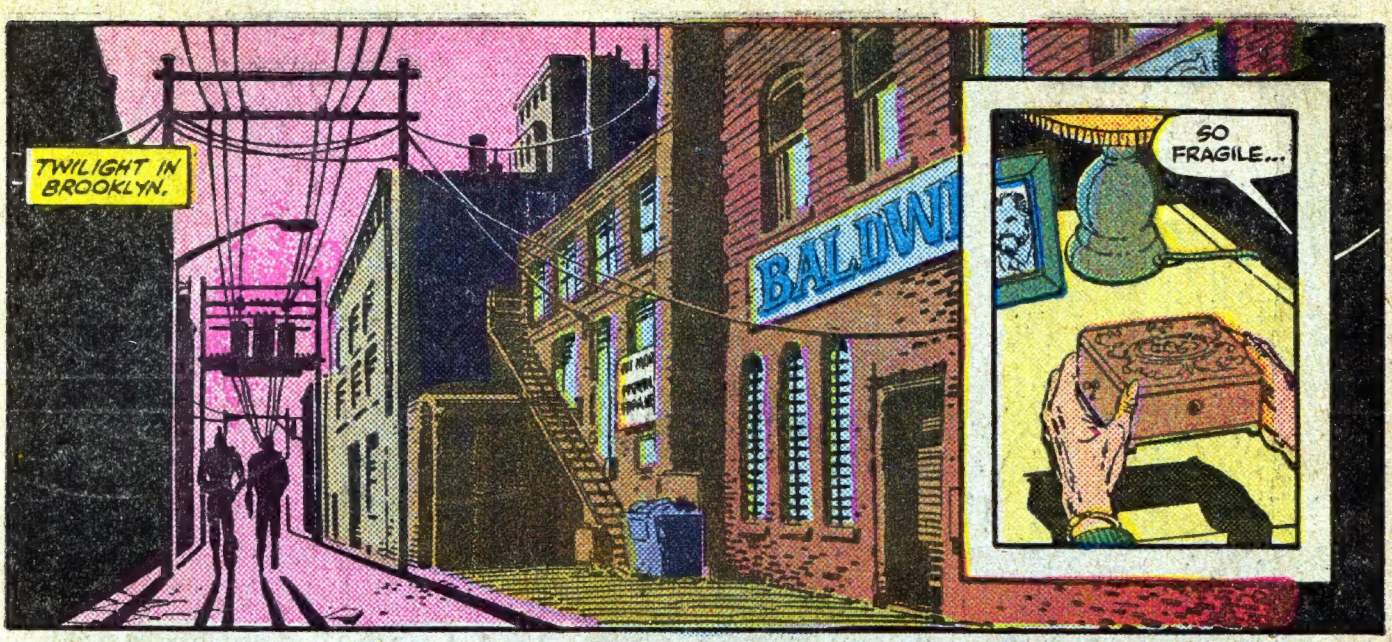
*Merchants war with a youth gang for control of a Brooklyn neighborhood — and only Moon Knight stands between them.*

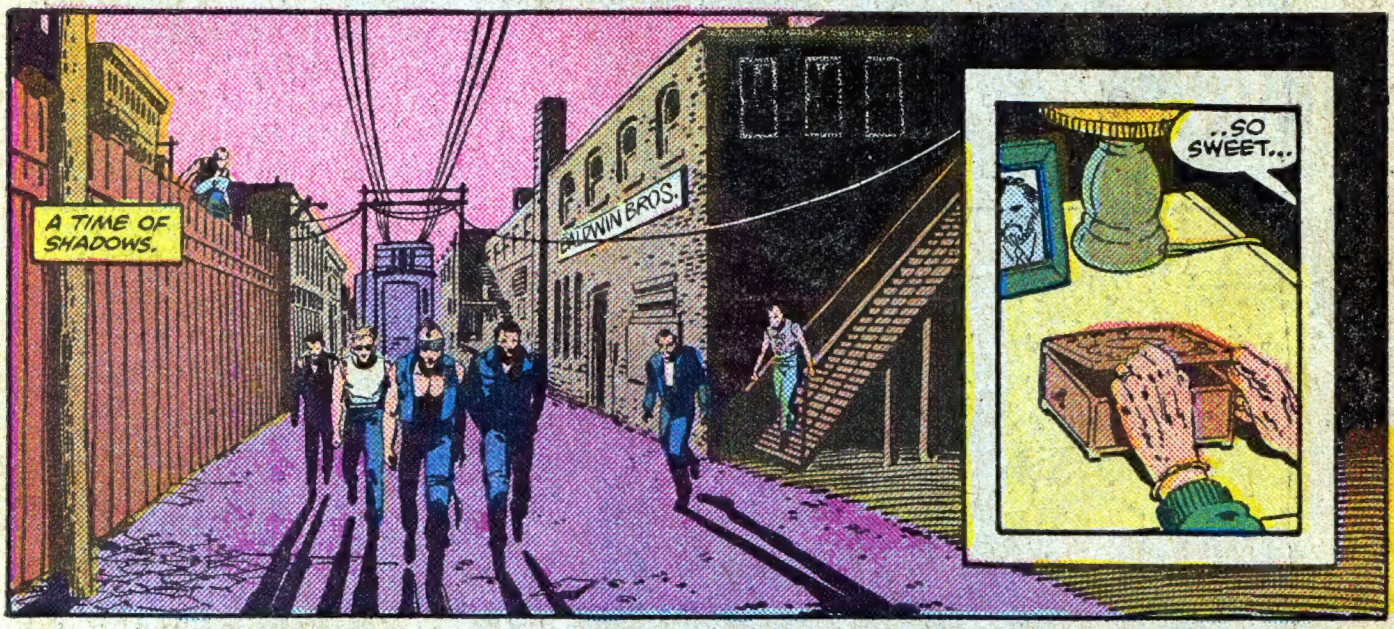
***Plus***

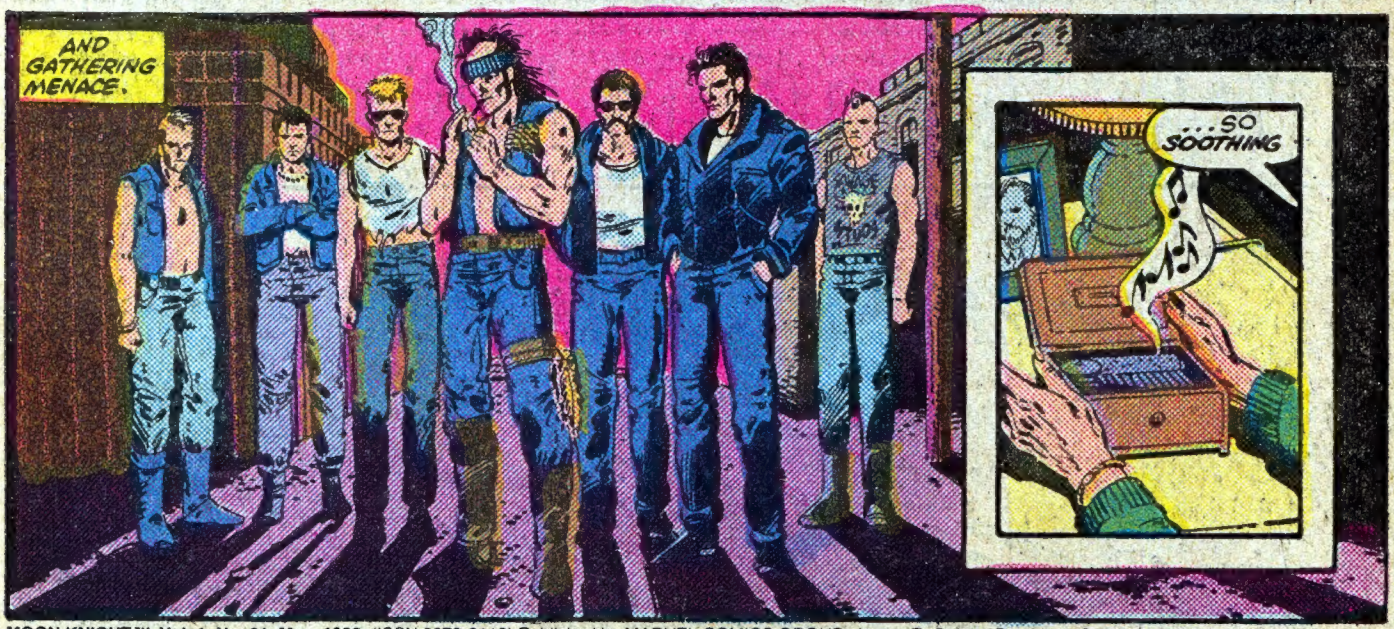
# FLY THE FRIENDLY SKIES

By *Steve Ringgenberg, Michael Hernandez and Kevin Dzuban.*

Trapped aboard a blimp, a blinded Moon Knight fights for his life.

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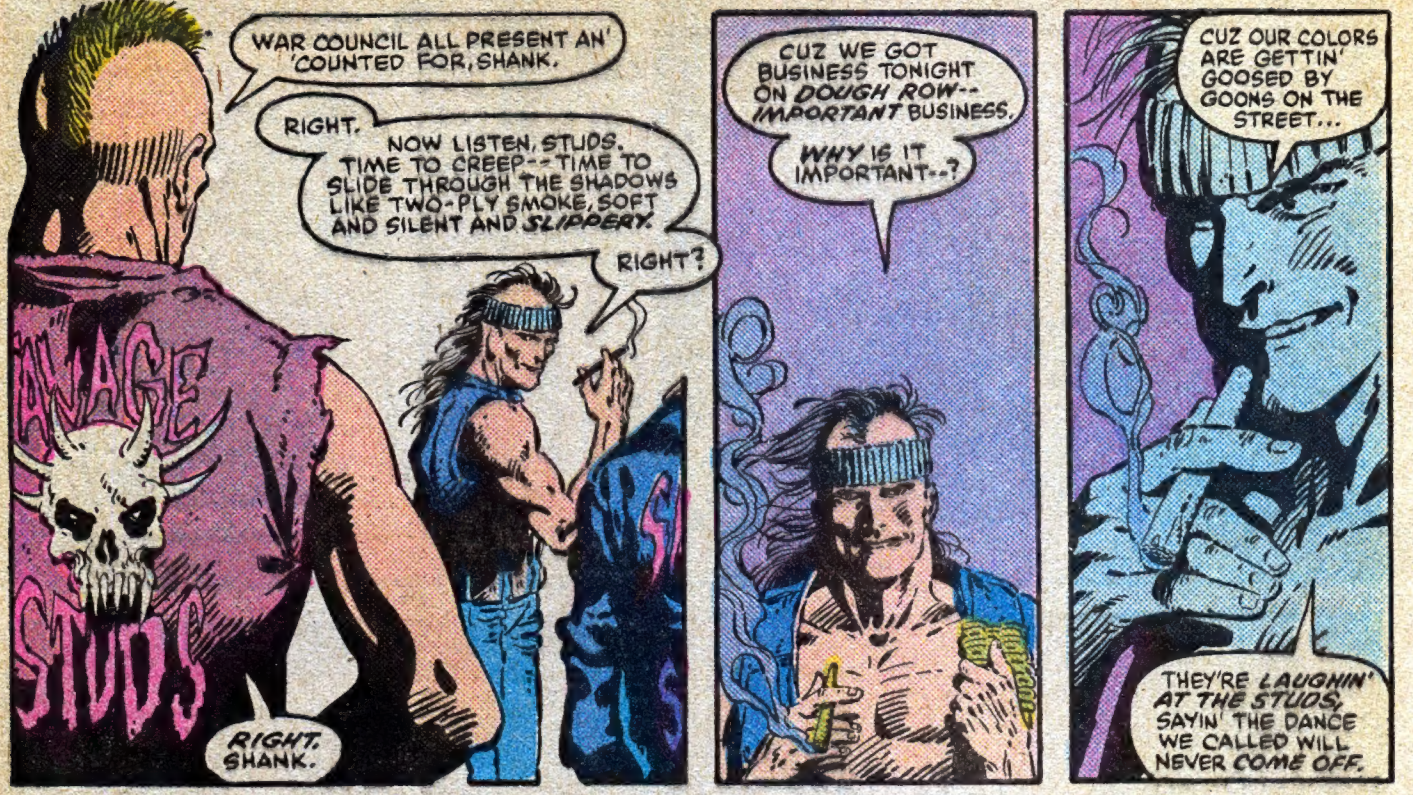

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **MOON KNIGHT!** ™

# *A Box of Music for*

# SAVAGE STUDS

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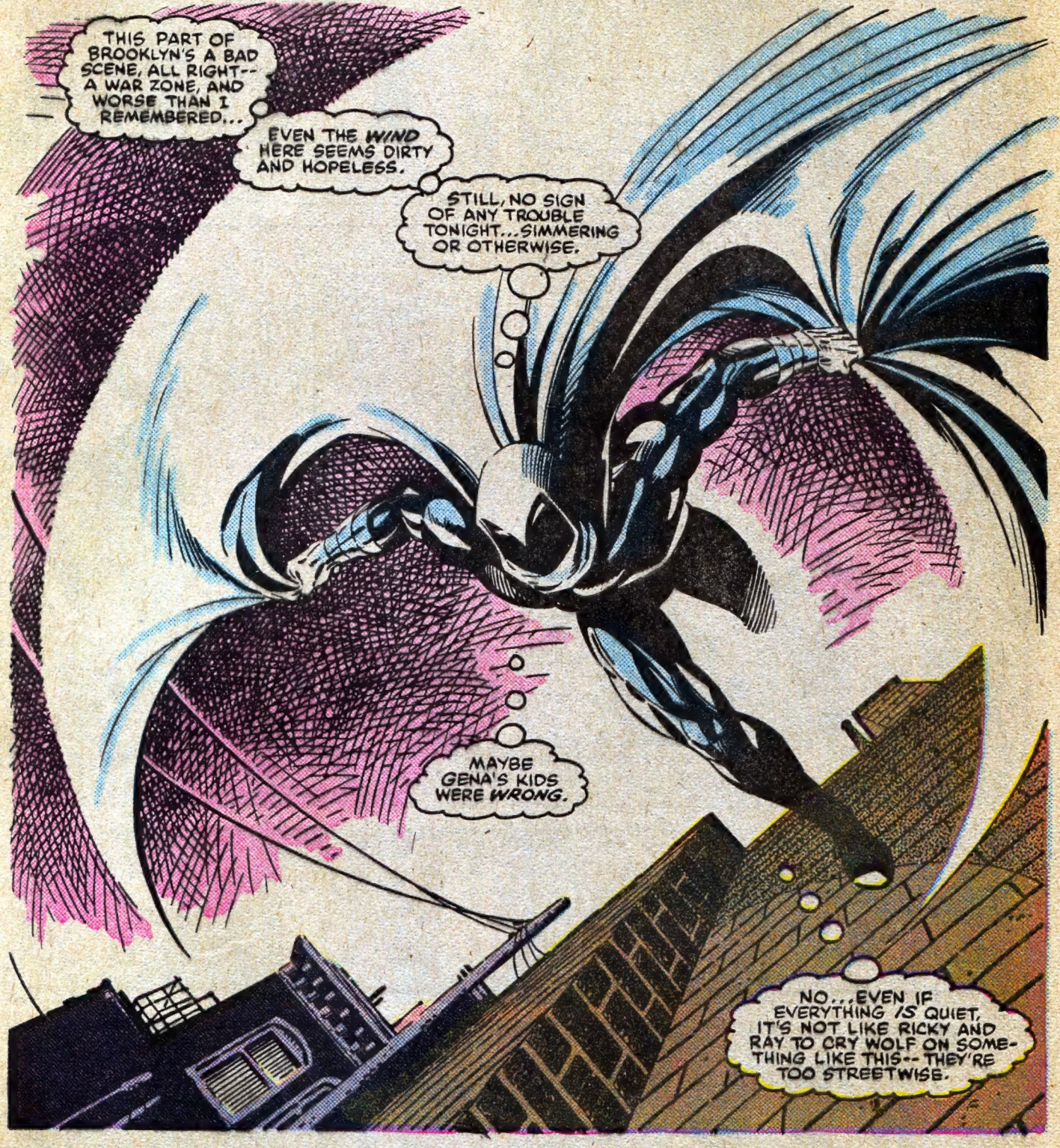
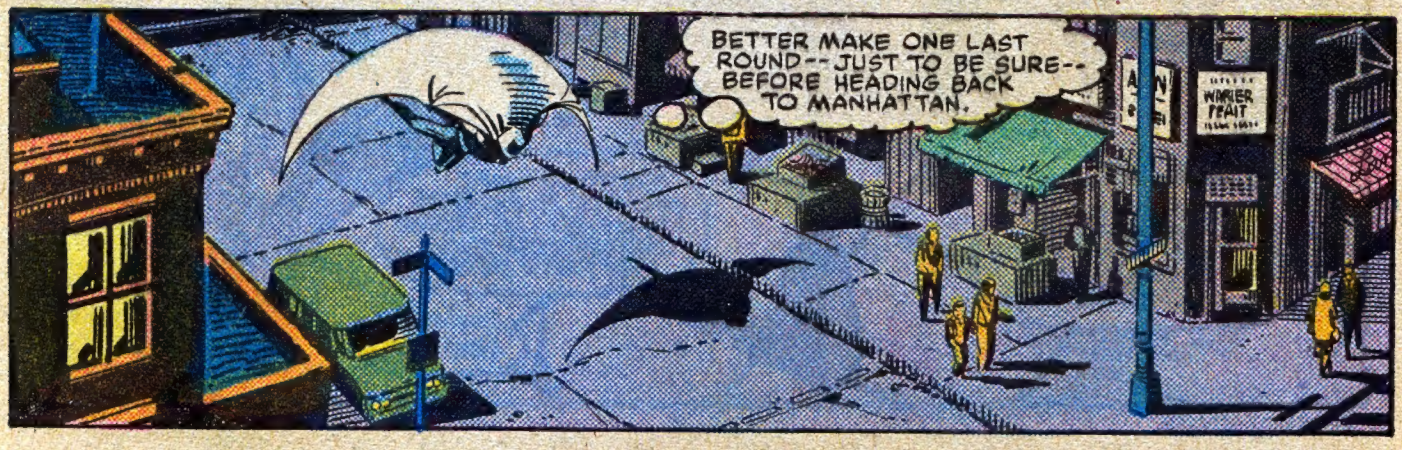
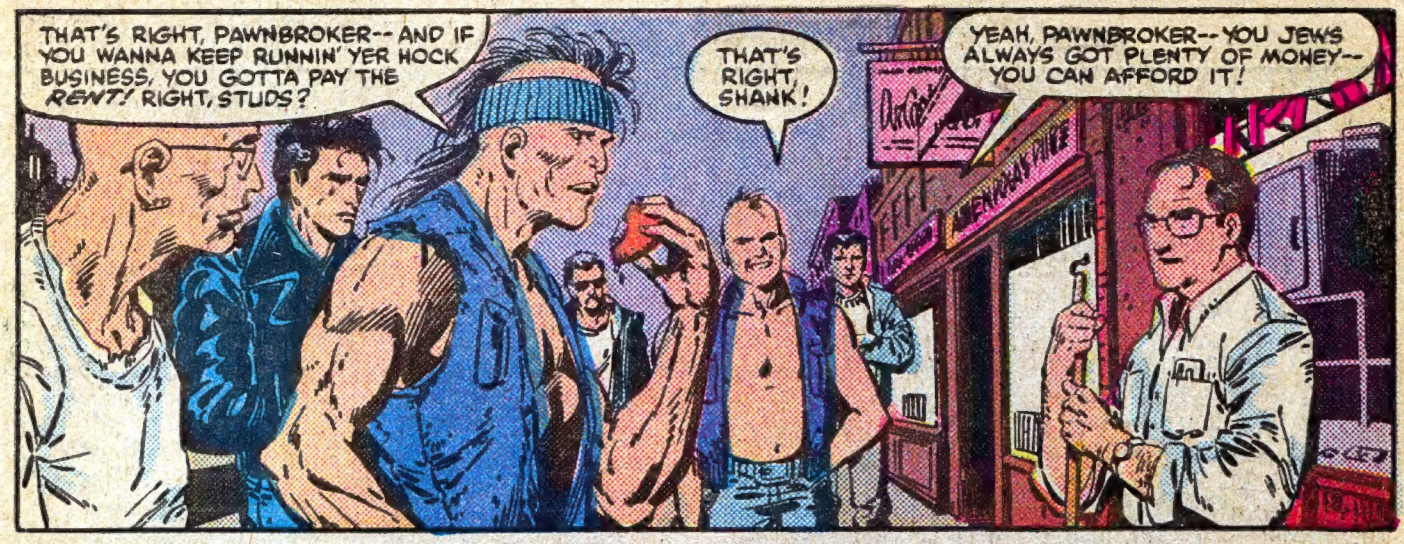
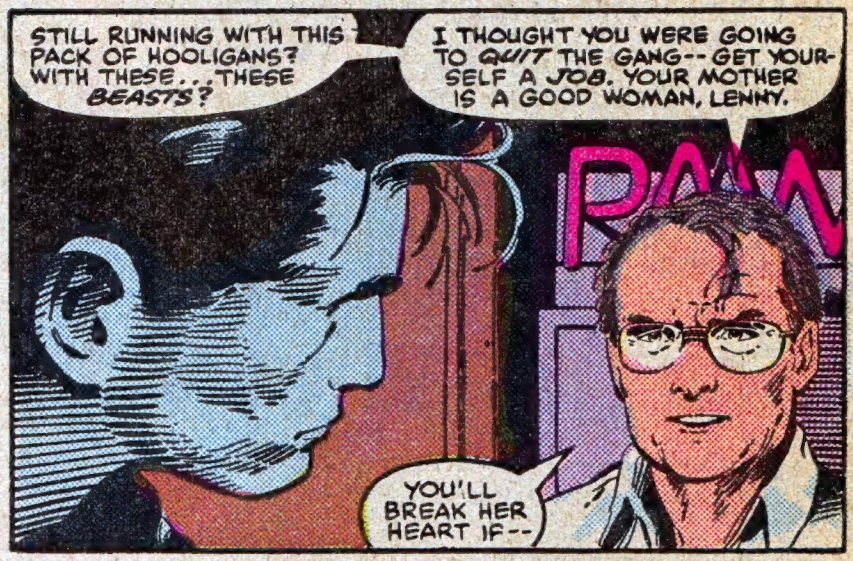


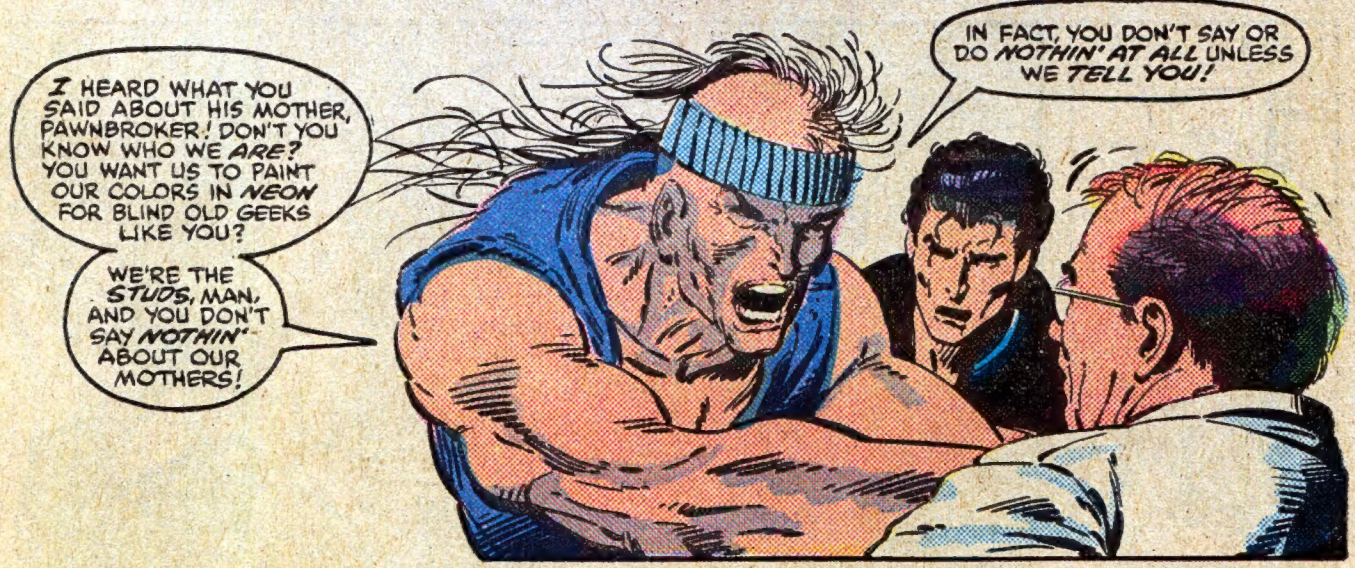
CLOSING TIME ON DOUGH ROW-- A CONCENTRATED BLOCK OF GRIMY SHOPS TEETERING ON BRINKS OF BANKRUPTCY.
MERCHANTS SCOWL AS LEFTOVER GOODS ARE CARTED INSIDE, TATTERED AWNINGS ROLLED BACK, IRON GATES LOCKED. SPARSE TILLS COUNTED...
...AND AS UNWELCOME SHADOWS APPEAR, LIKE JACKALS AFTER THE PICKINGS.
HEY, JOE--HOW'S BUSINESS?
NOT GOOD, NOT GOOD AT ALL... THE ECONOMY--
RELAX-- YOUR ACCOUNT'S SETTLED FOR THE WEEK.
JUST ASKIN' IS ALL-- FRIENDLY CONCERN, Y'KNOW?
CHOFF
HEY, VITO-- SEE YA TUESDAY, RIGHT?
TUESDAY... SURE, SHANK, I'LL HAVE IT.
SCUMMY PUNKS! IF ONLY THE POLICE--
THE POLICE NOTHING! IF ONLY WE WERE YOUNGER!
HEY, LEWIS-- YOU'RE A TROUBLEMAKER, YOU KNOW THAT? THE ONLY TROUBLEMAKER ON ALL OF DOUGH ROW.
THE STUDS DON'T LIKE TROUBLEMAKERS, LEWIS-- WE LIKE HONEST SHOPKEEPERS WHO PAY THEIR DUES!
DUES--?
YOU HOODLUMS THINK YOU OWN THIS STREET?

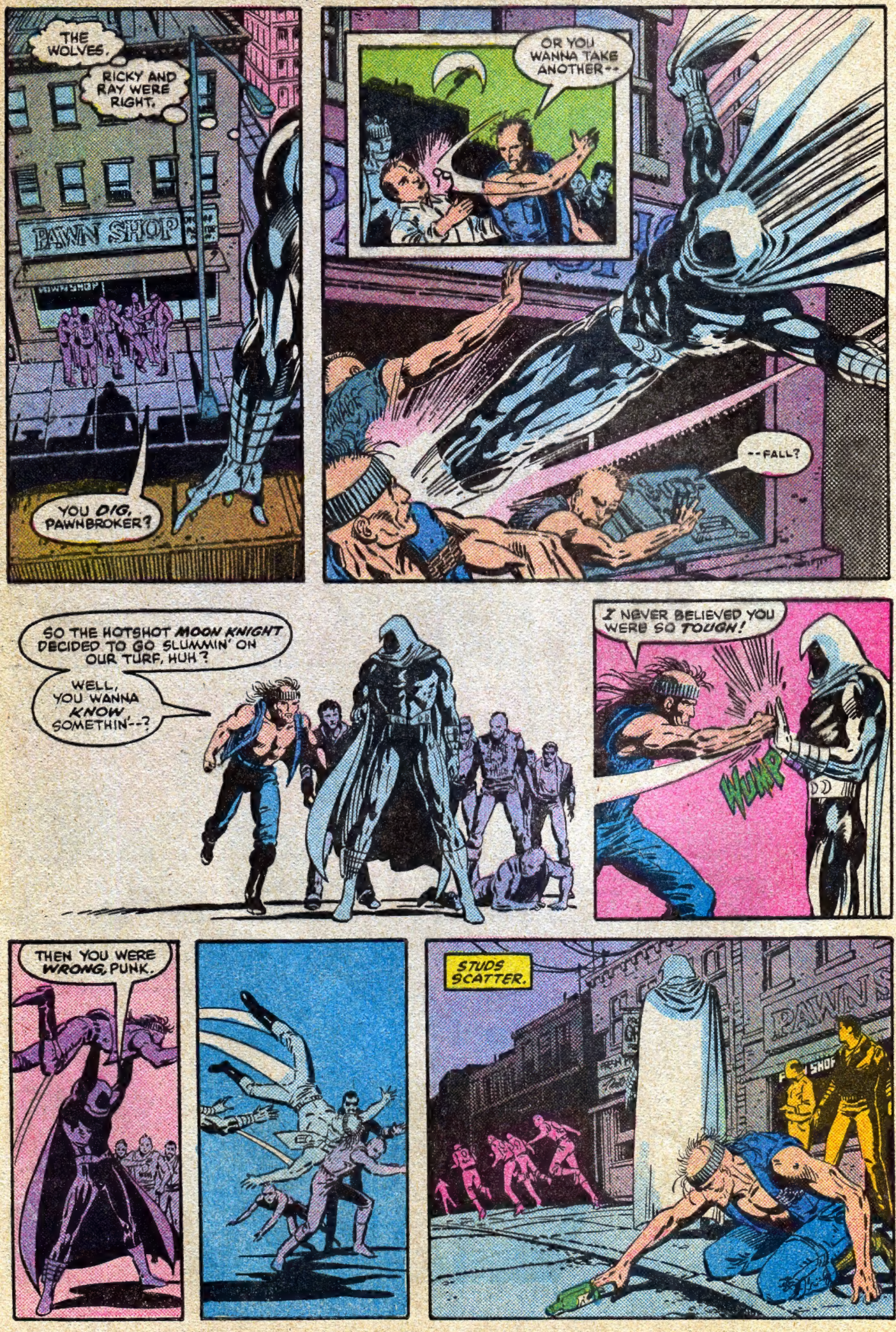

THAT'S RIGHT, PAWNBROKER-- AND IF YOU WANNA KEEP RUNNIN' YER HOCK BUSINESS, YOU GOTTA PAY THE RENT! RIGHT, STUDS?
THAT'S RIGHT, SHANK!
YEAH, PAWNBROKER-- YOU JEWS ALWAYS GOT PLENTY OF MONEY-- YOU CAN AFFORD IT!

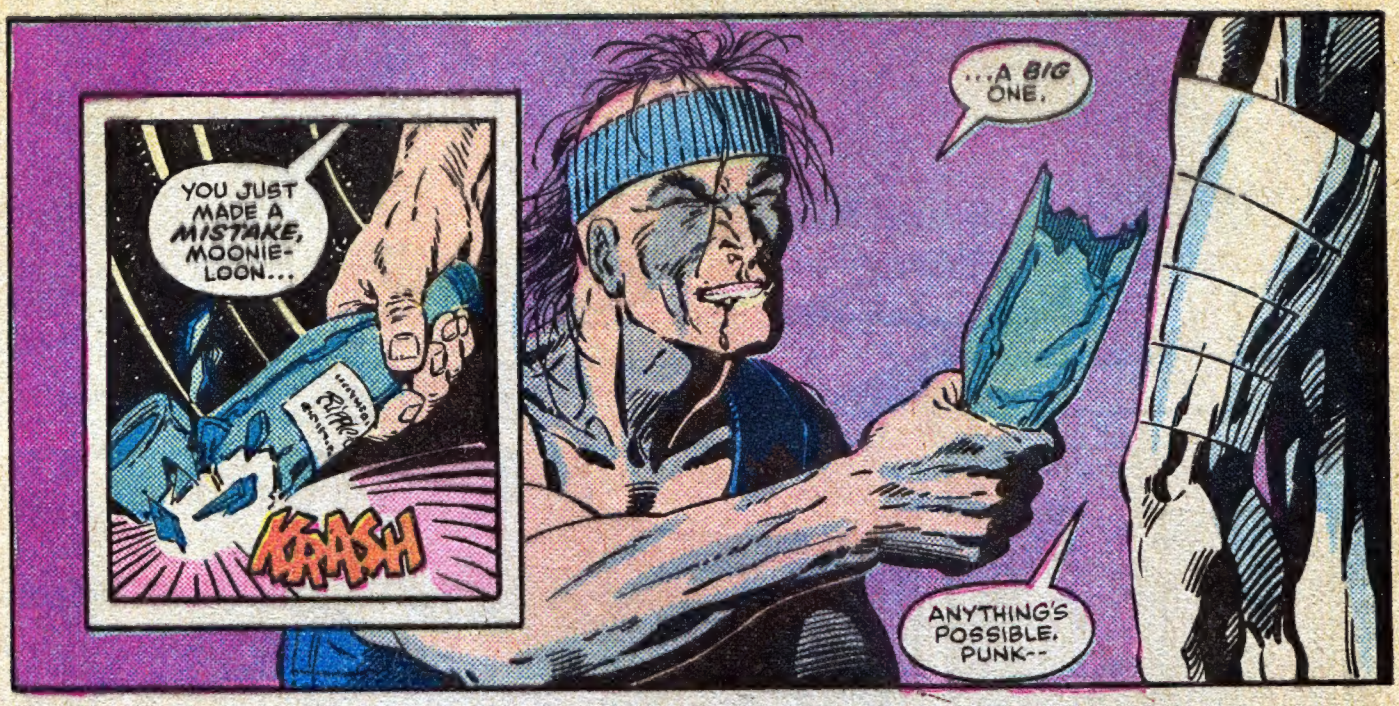
DON'T MAKE IT HARD, LEWIS-- JUST PAY UP, HUH?
YEAH-- PAY UP, PAWN-BROKER!
LENNY...?
YOU TOO, LENNY?

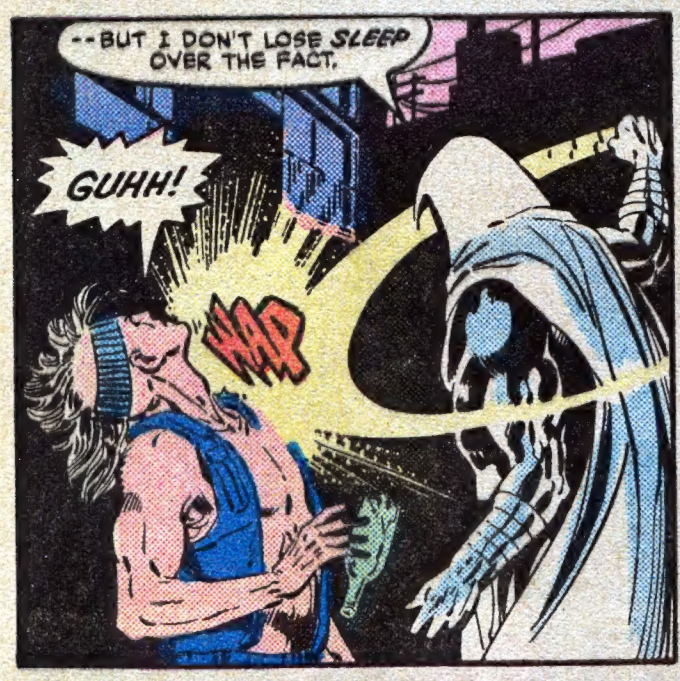

STILL RUNNING WITH THIS PACK OF HOOLIGANS? WITH THESE...THESE BEASTS?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO QUIT THE GANG-- GET YOURSELF A JOB. YOUR MOTHER IS A GOOD WOMAN, LENNY.
YOU'LL BREAK HER HEART IF--

HEY-- YOU HEAR WHAT HE SAID ABOUT YOUR MOTHER, LENNY?
LIGHTEN UP, SHANK-- HE DIDN'T SAY NOTHIN'.

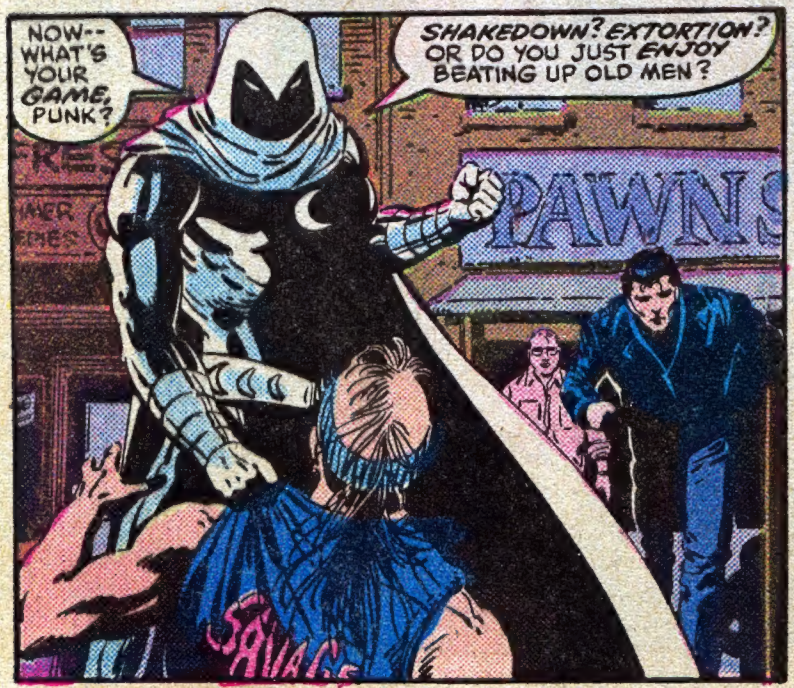

I HEARD WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT HIS MOTHER, PAWNBROKER! DON'T YOU KNOW WHO WE ARE? YOU WANT US TO PAINT OUR COLORS IN NEON FOR BLIND OLD GEEKS LIKE YOU?
WE'RE THE STUDS, MAN, AND YOU DON'T SAY NOTHIN' ABOUT OUR MOTHERS!
IN FACT, YOU DON'T SAY OR DO NOTHIN' AT ALL UNLESS WE TELL YOU!


THE WOLVES.
RICKY AND RAY WERE RIGHT.
PAWN SHOP
YOU DIG, PAWNBROKER?
OR YOU WANNA TAKE ANOTHER--
--FALL?
SO THE HOTSHOT MOON KNIGHT DECIDED TO GO SLUMMIN' ON OUR TURF, HUH?
WELL, YOU WANNA KNOW SOMETHIN'--?
I NEVER BELIEVED YOU WERE SO TOUGH!
WUMP
THEN YOU WERE WRONG, PUNK.
STUDS SCATTER.

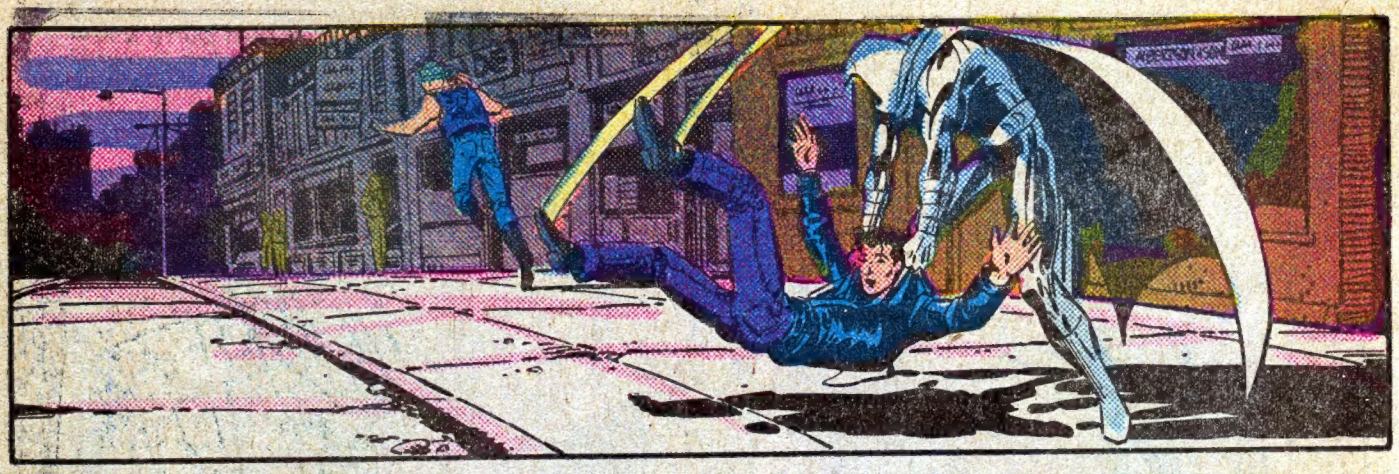

YOU JUST MADE A MISTAKE, MOONIE-LOON...
KRASH
...A BIG ONE.
ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE, PUNK--


--BUT I DON'T LOSE SLEEP OVER THE FACT.
GUHH!
WAP

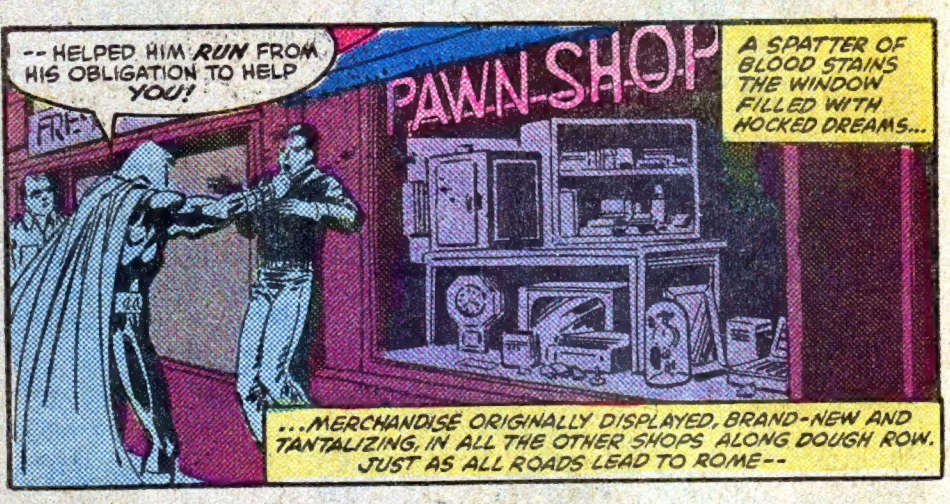
HELP ME, LENNY! YOU'RE MY WAR CHIEF, MAN-- HELP ME!
NO, LENNY-- DON'T LISTEN TO HIM!
YOU... JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND, DO YOU, LEWIS?

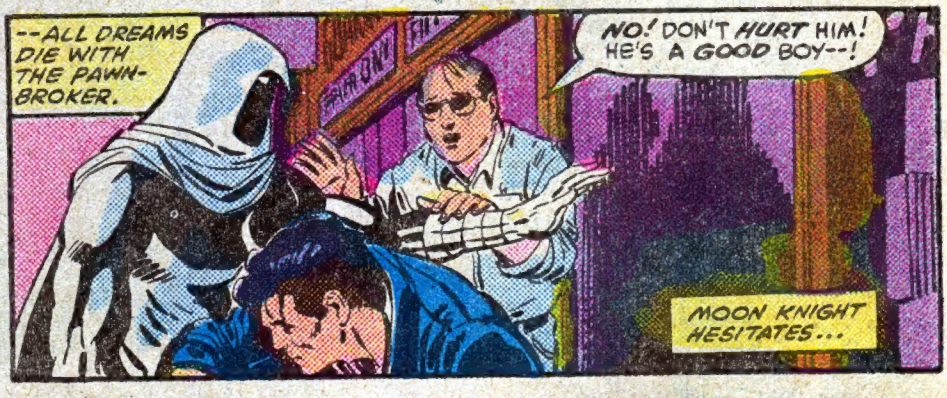

NOW-- WHAT'S YOUR GAME, PUNK?
SHAKEDOWN? EXTORTION? OR DO YOU JUST ENJOY BEATING UP OLD MEN?
PAWNS

IS THAT YOUR IDEA OF FU--
--UHN!



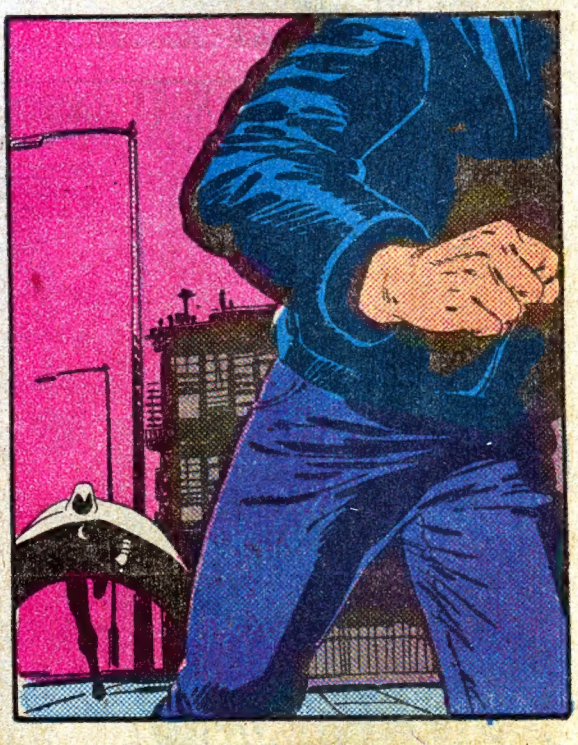
EVER HEARD OF HONOR AMONG THIEVES?
NO?
THAT'S BECAUSE IT DOESN'T EXIST.
SAVAGE STEEL
YOU HELPED YOUR "FRIEND," ALL RIGHT--


--HELPED HIM RUN FROM HIS OBLIGATION TO HELP YOU!
PAWN-SHOP
A SPATTER OF BLOOD STAINS THE WINDOW FILLED WITH HOCKED DREAMS...
...MERCHANDISE ORIGINALLY DISPLAYED, BRAND-NEW AND TANTALIZING, IN ALL THE OTHER SHOPS ALONG DOUGH ROW. JUST AS ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME--


--ALL DREAMS DIE WITH THE PAWN-BROKER.
NO! DON'T HURT HIM! HE'S A GOOD BOY--!
MOON KNIGHT HESITATES...

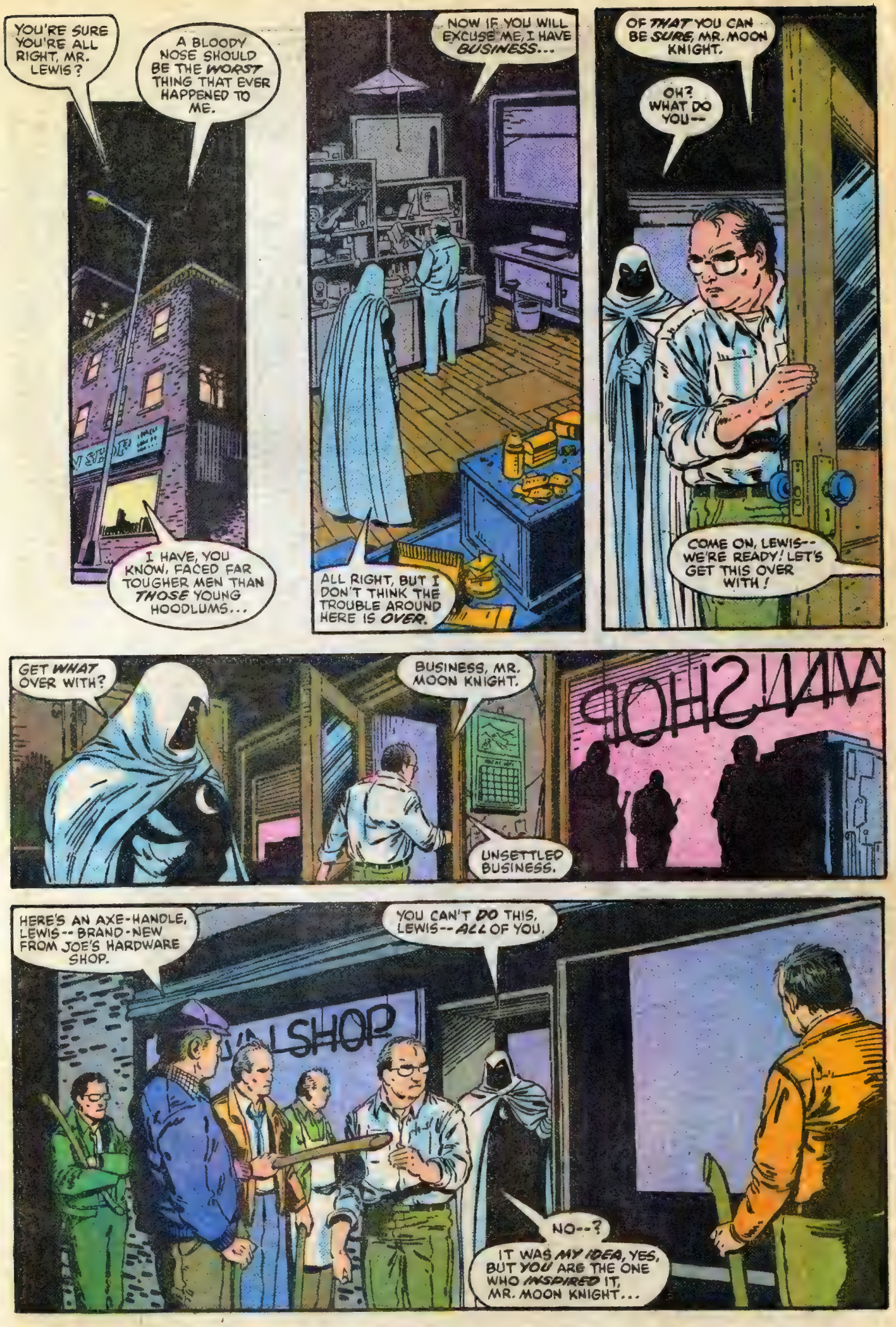
...AND LENNY'S SHADOW KILLS THE COLOR OF BLOOD ...DARKENS THE DREAMS.
PAW

DON'T WORRY, FRIEND.
I WON'T HURT HIM.



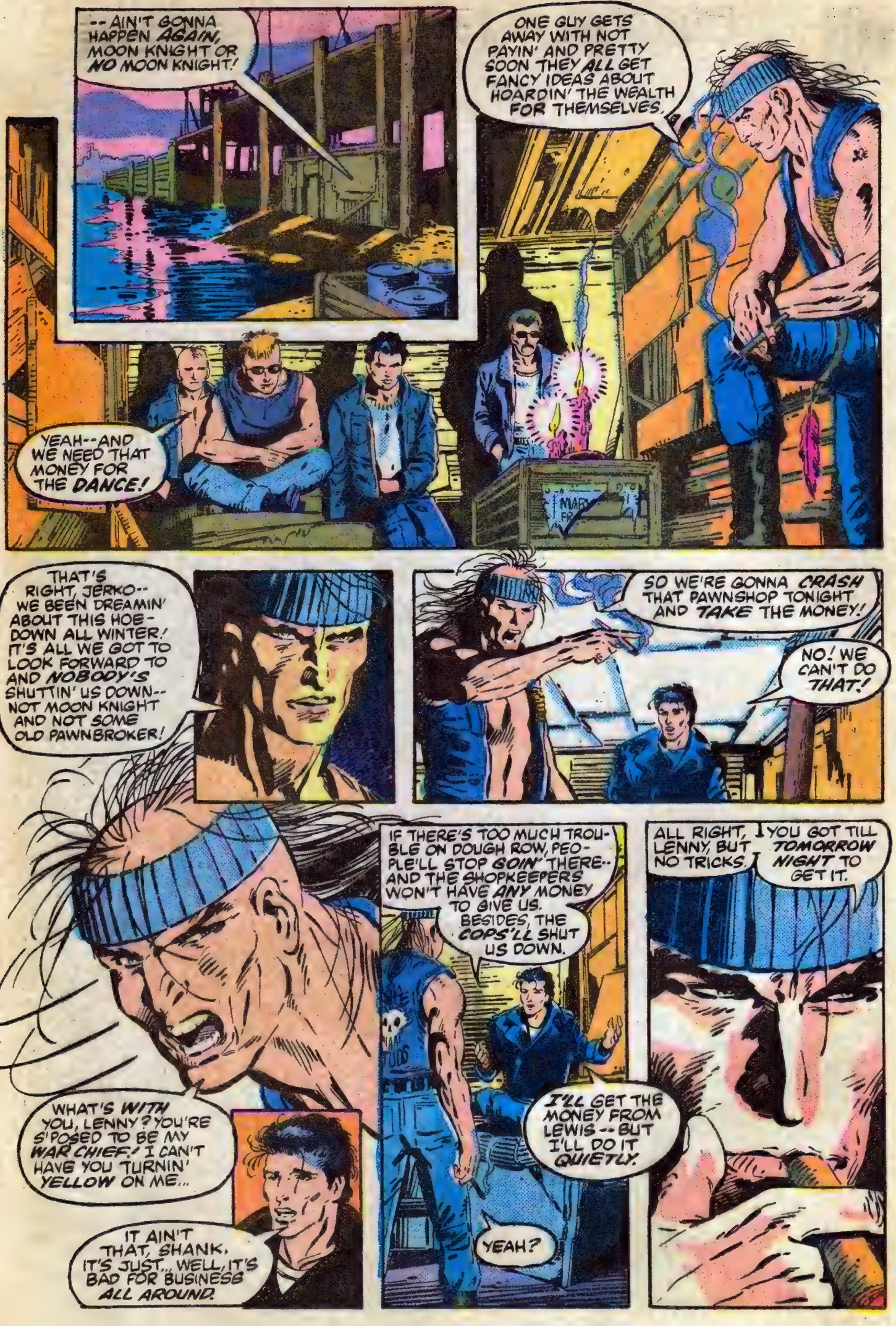
I'VE SENT QUITE A FEW PUNKS TO THE SLAMMER, LENNY--SOME FOR LIFE.
A LOT OF THEM STARTED OUT JUST LIKE YOU.
HAK
YEAH? WELL, AT LEAST THOSE GUYS ARE EATIN' REGULAR--AND WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT ANYWAY?
A STAR WITH YOUR PICTURE IN THE PAPERS--PROBABLY RICH--WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT DOIN' SOMETHIN' FOR MONEY?
SOMETHIN' WRONG.
MAYBE I KNOW MORE ABOUT IT THAN YOU CAN DREAM, LENNY.
AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER, WE'VE ALL BEEN MERCENARY.
YEAH? YOU THINK WE LIKE DOIN' WHAT WE HAVE TO DO? LOOK AROUND YOU, MAN!
THIS IS WHAT THEY'RE WILLIN' TO GIVE US--GARBAGE AND BACK ALLEYS!
BUT THE MINUTE WE TRY STEPPIN' OUT INTO THE STREET WHERE THE MONEY IS, THEY START SCREAMIN' ABOUT UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS!

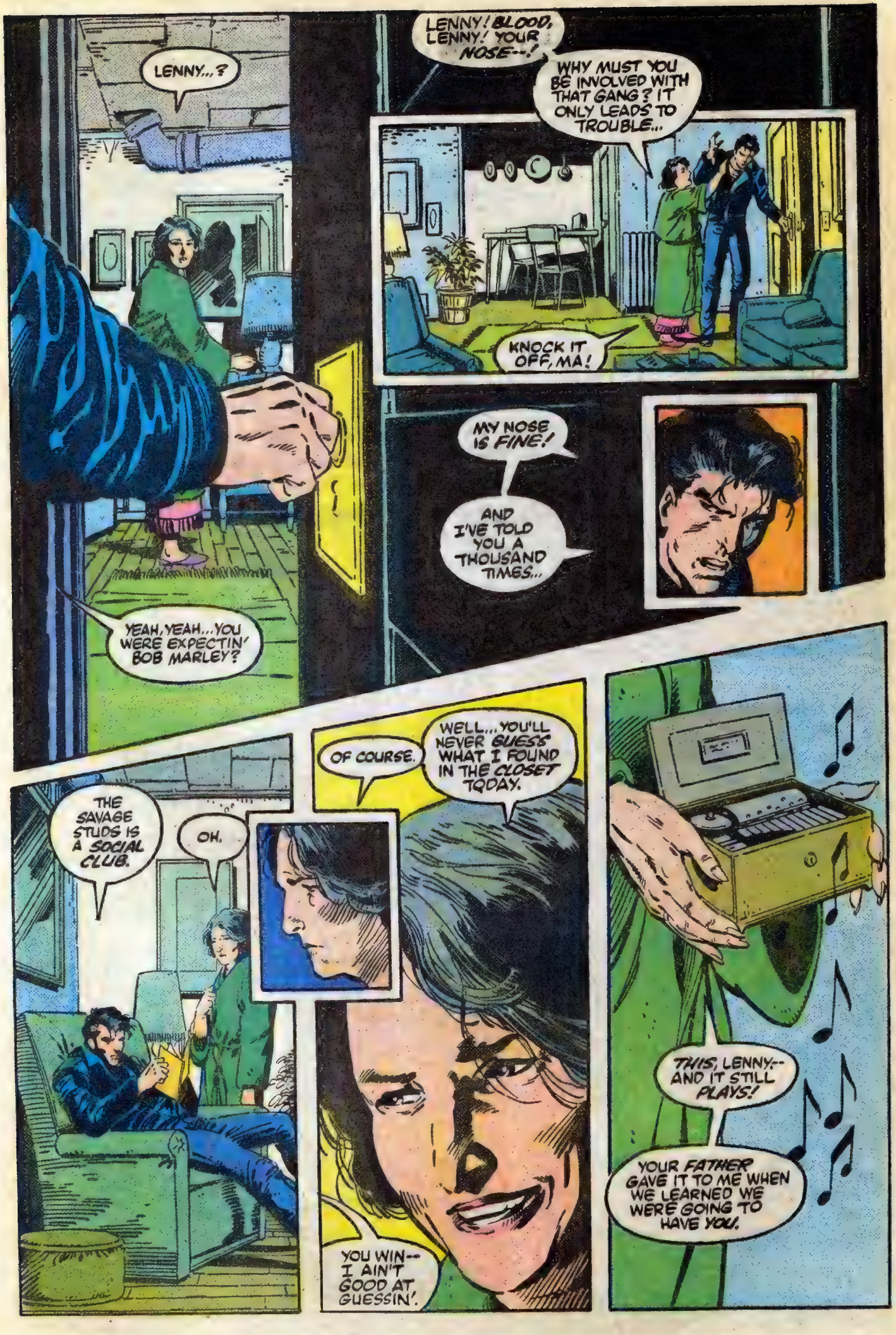
THEY DON'T WANT US, MAN!
THEY WANT TO SQUASH US!
THEY WANNA KEEP THE STREETS FOR THEMSELVES!
DOUGH ROW IS THEIRS!
IT'S A WAR!
THAT'S WHY WE GOTTA CLAIM THE STREETS FOR OURSELVES!
M-HM.
ARE YOU A GOOD BOY, LENNY?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN AM I A GOOD BOY? I'M THE BEST AT WHAT I DO! I'M THE SAVAGE STUDS' WAR CHIEF!
THE PAWNBROKER SAID YOU WERE A--
YEAH... LEWIS...WELL...
...MAYBE...
LENNY'S EYES SOFTEN, GIVEN A GLIMPSE OF OTHER TIMES...
...BUT THE GLIMPSE FADES, TO A BACK ALLEY VISTA OF GARBAGE.
AW, WHAT DOES A STUPID PAWN-BROKER KNOW?
HE'S A LEECH--SUCKIN' ON MISERY!


YOU'RE SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, MR. LEWIS?
A BLOODY NOSE SHOULD BE THE WORST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO ME.
I HAVE, YOU KNOW, FACED FAR TOUGHER MEN THAN THOSE YOUNG HOODLUMS...
NOW IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE BUSINESS...
ALL RIGHT, BUT I DON'T THINK THE TROUBLE AROUND HERE IS OVER.
OF THAT YOU CAN BE SURE, MR. MOON KNIGHT.
OH? WHAT DO YOU--
COME ON, LEWIS-- WE'RE READY! LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH!
GET WHAT OVER WITH?
BUSINESS, MR. MOON KNIGHT.
UNSETTLED BUSINESS.
HERE'S AN AXE-HANDLE, LEWIS-- BRAND-NEW FROM JOE'S HARDWARE SHOP.
YOU CAN'T DO THIS, LEWIS-- ALL OF YOU.
NO--?
IT WAS MY IDEA, YES, BUT YOU ARE THE ONE WHO INSPIRED IT, MR. MOON KNIGHT...

YOU ARE THE ONES WHO SHOWED US IT IS POSSIBLE TO FIGHT BACK.
BESIDES, IF I SURVIVED THE NAZIS, I CAN CERTAINLY STAND UP TO A BUNCH OF YOUNG HOODLUMS!
BUT YOU CAN'T GO AFTER THEM YOURSELVES! THE POLICE TAKE A DIM VIEW OF VIGILANTES ROAMING THE STREETS AND--
YEAH-- WE'RE TIRED OF PAYIN' GOOD MONEY TO THOSE PUNKS! WE BARELY MAKE A PROFIT AS IT IS!
THAT'S DIFFERENT--I...UH... I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING...
OH? AND ARE YOU NOT A VIGILANTE YOURSELF? DO YOU NOT TAKE THE LAW INTO YOUR OWN HANDS EVERY NIGHT--WHILE TELLING US TO SIT STILL AND BE POLITE LITTLE VICTIMS?
AND SO DO WE! WE'RE GONNA STAND UP TO THESE PUNKS BEFORE THEY TAKE OVER THE STREETS!
YEAH!
THEN YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE...
...AND YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO GO THROUGH ME TO DO IT.

LEWIS... YOU SAID LENNY IS A "GOOD BOY. THAT'S BECAUSE YOU KNOW HIM. MAYBE IF YOU KNEW THE OTHERS...
WHY NOT HELP RATHER THAN HURT THEM... TALK TO THEM, OFFER THEM JOBS...
I... I...
...HE IS RIGHT.
WE CANNOT AFFORD TO GIVE THEM JOBS...
...BUT WE CAN BE NICE TO THEM--NICE, BUT FIRM. WE MUST ALL AGREE NEVER TO PAY THEM AGAIN--
--BUT WE MUST ALSO AGREE TOGETHER, TO TALK TO THEM, TRY TO EXPLAIN THINGS...
YEAH, MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, LEWIS.
BUSTED HEADS NEVER SOLVED NO PROBLEMS.
AND THE TENSION SQUEEZING COILED SPRINGS OF VIOLENCE--
--EASES OFF, GENTLY.
SHOP
OKAY, FRENCHIE, COME DOWN AND GET ME...
I THINK IT'S TIME I BECAME LOCKLEY FOR A WHILE... TO DIG DEEPER INTO THIS MESS.


--AIN'T GONNA HAPPEN AGAIN, MOON KNIGHT OR NO MOON KNIGHT!
ONE GUY GETS AWAY WITH NOT PAYIN' AND PRETTY SOON THEY ALL GET FANCY IDEAS ABOUT HOARDIN' THE WEALTH FOR THEMSELVES.
YEAH--AND WE NEED THAT MONEY FOR THE DANCE!
THAT'S RIGHT, JERKO-- WE BEEN DREAMIN' ABOUT THIS HOE-DOWN ALL WINTER! IT'S ALL WE GOT TO LOOK FORWARD TO AND NOBODY'S SHUTTIN' US DOWN-- NOT MOON KNIGHT AND NOT SOME OLD PAWNBROKER!
SO WE'RE GONNA CRASH THAT PAWNSHOP TONIGHT AND TAKE THE MONEY!
NO! WE CAN'T DO THAT!
WHAT'S WITH YOU, LENNY? YOU'RE S'POSED TO BE MY WAR CHIEF! I CAN'T HAVE YOU TURNIN' YELLOW ON ME...
IT AIN'T THAT, SHANK. IT'S JUST... WELL, IT'S BAD FOR BUSINESS ALL AROUND.
IF THERE'S TOO MUCH TROUBLE ON DOUGH ROW, PEOPLE'LL STOP GOIN' THERE-- AND THE SHOPKEEPERS WON'T HAVE ANY MONEY TO GIVE US. BESIDES, THE COPS'LL SHUT US DOWN.
I'LL GET THE MONEY FROM LEWIS -- BUT I'LL DO IT QUIETLY.
YEAH?
ALL RIGHT, LENNY, BUT NO TRICKS.
YOU GOT TILL TOMORROW NIGHT TO GET IT.

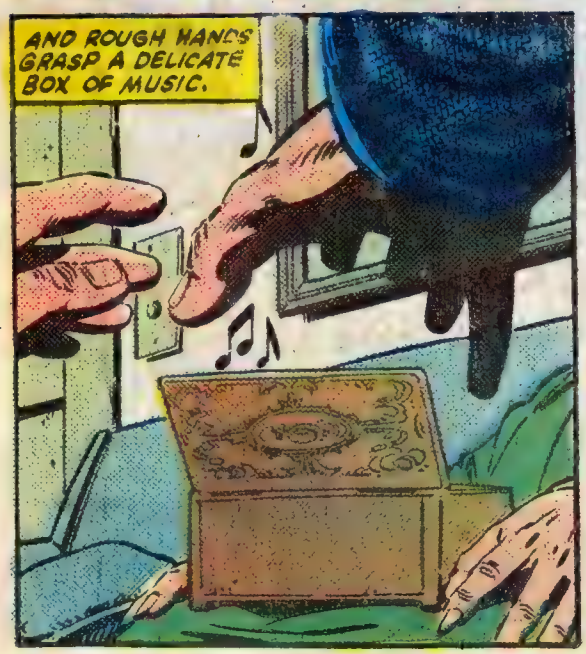

LENNY...?
YEAH, YEAH... YOU WERE EXPECTIN' BOB MARLEY?
LENNY! BLOOD, LENNY! YOUR NOSE--!
WHY MUST YOU BE INVOLVED WITH THAT GANG? IT ONLY LEADS TO TROUBLE...
KNOCK IT OFF, MA!
MY NOSE IS FINE!
AND I'VE TOLD YOU A THOUSAND TIMES...
THE SAVAGE STUDS IS A SOCIAL CLUB.
OH.
OF COURSE.
WELL... YOU'LL NEVER GUESS WHAT I FOUND IN THE CLOSET TODAY.
YOU WIN-- I AIN'T GOOD AT GUESSIN'.
THIS, LENNY-- AND IT STILL PLAYS!
YOUR FATHER GAVE IT TO ME WHEN WE LEARNED WE WERE GOING TO HAVE YOU.

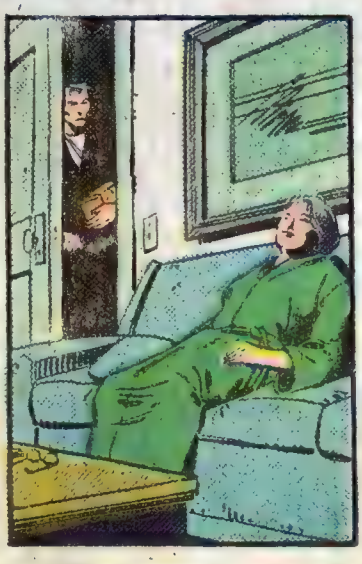
YEAH, IT'S A REAL BEAUT. NOW LEAVE ME ALONE FOR A--
I PLAYED IT FOR YOU EVERY NIGHT ALL THE TIME I WAS PREGNANT-- HELD IT RIGHT UP CLOSE TO MY STOMACH SO IT WOULD SOOTHE YOU...
EVEN AFTER YOU WERE BORN, I PLAYED IT FOR YOU UNTIL YOU FELL ASLEEP.

OH LENNY, I WISH YOU COULD HAVE STAYED A BABY FOREVER.
DON'T KNOW WHY I EVER PUT THE MUSIC BOX AWAY IN THAT CLOSET.
MUST HAVE BEEN WHEN YOUR FATHER LEFT... BUT IT'S SO SOOTHING, ISN'T IT, LENNY?

SO... SOOTHING...

THE MOTHER SLEEPS.
THE SON LOOKS AT HER, STUDIES HER, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS.

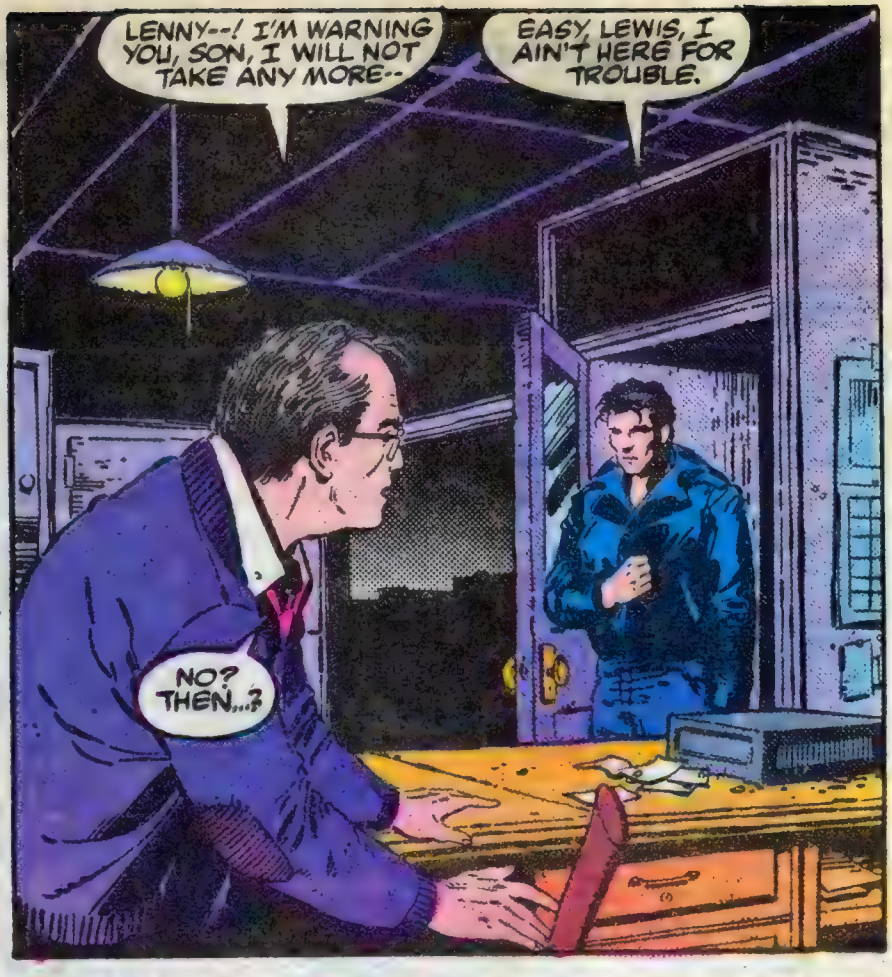

AND ROUGH HANDS GRASP A DELICATE BOX OF MUSIC.

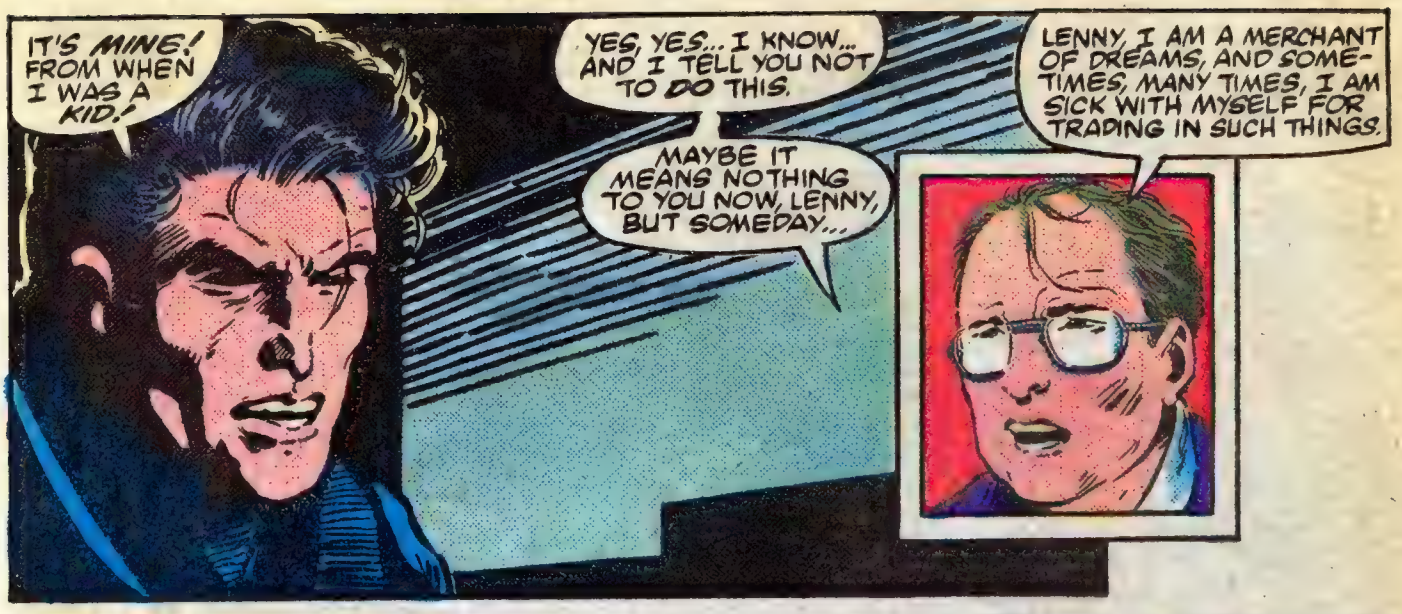


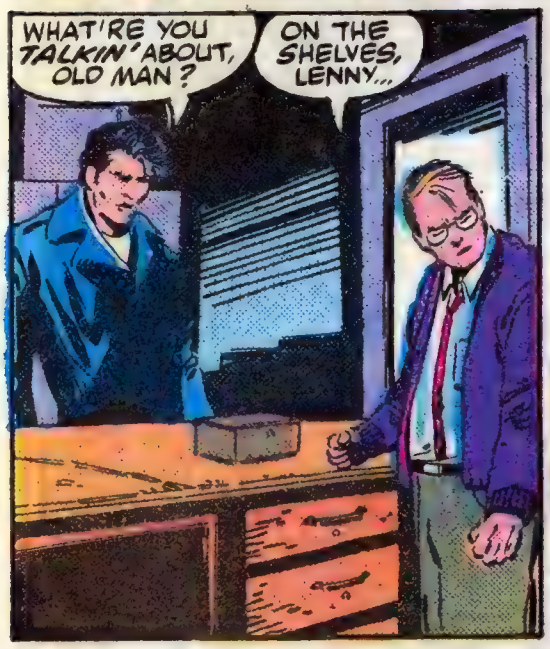
A DOOR CLICKS.
SILENCE IS COMPLETE.

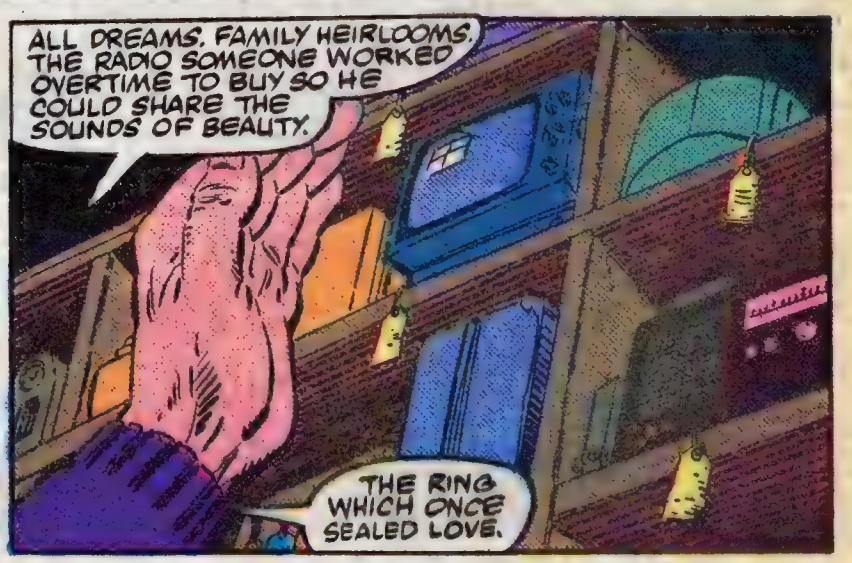
MANHATTAN.
OVER HERE, RICKY!
PASS IT-- PASS IT!
HONK HONK
HEY-- AIN'T THAT LOCKLEY'S CAB, RAY?
HEY, LOCKLEY!?
EVENIN', CHAMPS-- YOUR MOTHER SAYS HI.
TAXI
WHAT'S UP?
YEAH-- GOT SOME SHADY WORK FOR US?
WANT SOMEBODY TAILED?
NO, JUST CHECKIN' ON THAT BROOKLYN GANG YOU TIPPED ME TO.
THE SAVAGE STUDS? TOLD YOU EVERYTHING WE KNOW, LOCKLEY-- JUST THAT THEY'RE STARTIN' TO ACT LIKE THE BIG BOYS-- EXTORTION... PROTECTION RACKETS...
YEAH, I'VE SEEN 'EM IN ACTION... BUT WHERE MIGHT I FIND 'EM, ALL TOGETHER, SHOULD THE NEED EVER ARISE?
YOU MEAN THEIR CLUBHOUSE?
CAN'T SAY FOR SURE-- BUT I HEAR IT'S A WICKED LITTLE AFFAIR UNDER THE WHARVES THERE.
THANKS, MEN-- GO HELP YOUR MOTHER CLOSE UP THE DINER, HUH?
CECIL B., LOOK OUT.
WILL DO, LOCKLEY, AND STOP BY SOME TIME TO SEE OUR STUDENT FILM, HEAR? WE COPPED AN "A" ON IT.

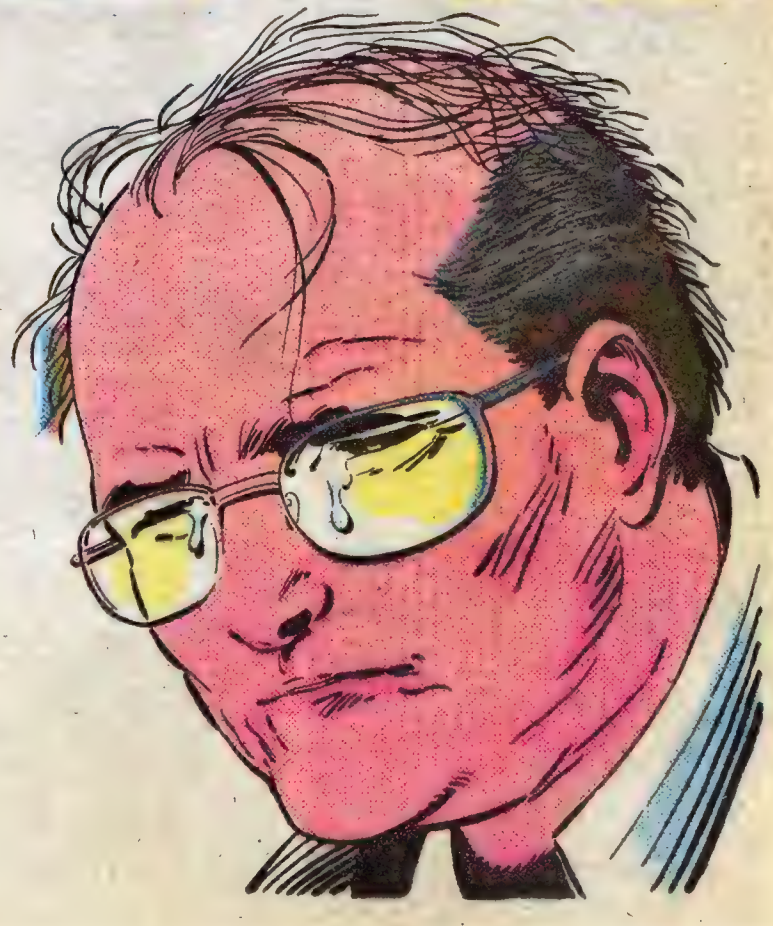
BROOKLYN, THE NEXT DAY.

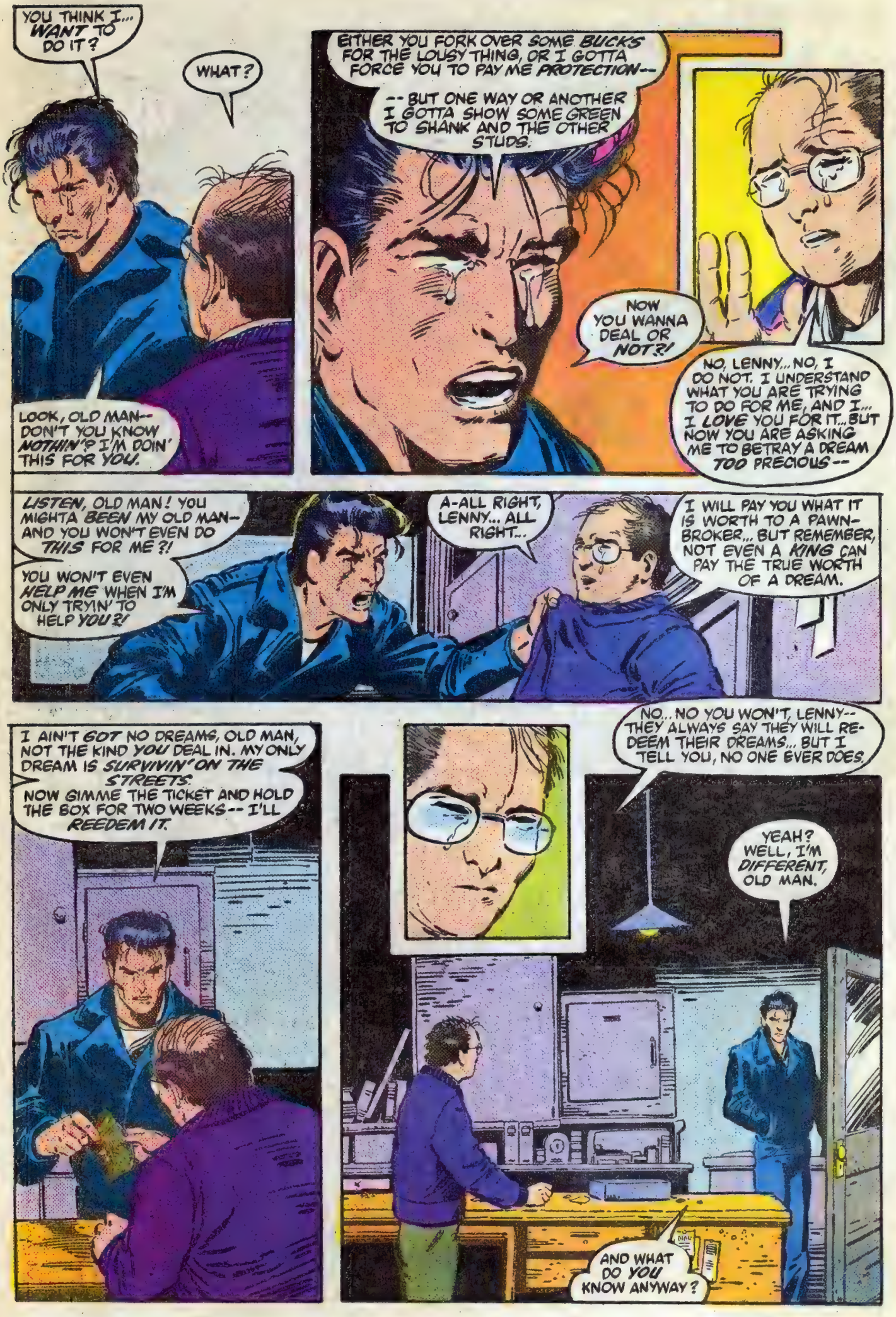



IT'S MINE! FROM WHEN I WAS A KID!
YES, YES... I KNOW... AND I TELL YOU NOT TO DO THIS.
MAYBE IT MEANS NOTHING TO YOU NOW, LENNY, BUT SOMEDAY...
LENNY, I AM A MERCHANT OF DREAMS, AND SOMETIMES, MANY TIMES, I AM SICK WITH MYSELF FOR TRADING IN SUCH THINGS.

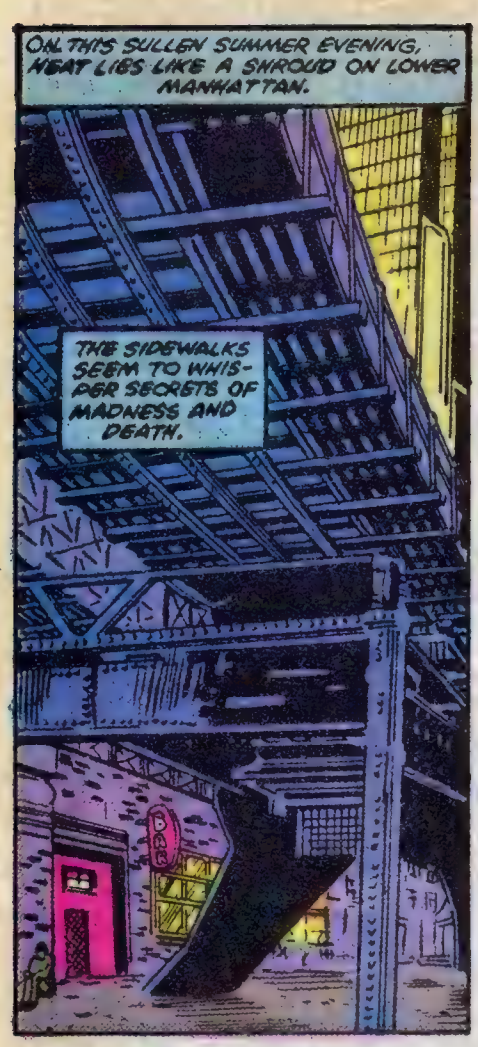

WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT, OLD MAN?
ON THE SHELVES, LENNY...


ALL DREAMS. FAMILY HEIRLOOMS. THE RADIO SOMEONE WORKED OVERTIME TO BUY SO HE COULD SHARE THE SOUNDS OF BEAUTY.
THE RING WHICH ONCE SEALED LOVE.


THE WATCH WHICH ONCE REWARDED FIFTY YEARS OF HONEST SERVICE.
THESE ARE JUST THINGS, LENNY-- AND OFTEN JUNK, YES, BUT THEY ARE ALSO SYMBOLS... OF DREAMS AND HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS.
I DEAL IN SHATTERED DREAMS, LENNY-- I TURN PRECIOUS DREAMS INTO CHEAP DOLLARS. DO NOT HELP ME DO IT AGAIN... NOT WITH SUCH A LOVELY DREAM AS THIS LITTLE BOX OF MUSIC.
ONCE A DREAM HAS BEEN LOST, LENNY, YOU CANNOT BUY IT BACK... NOT WITH ALL THE CHEAP DOLLARS IN THE WORLD.


YOU THINK I... WANT TO DO IT?
WHAT?
LOOK, OLD MAN-- DON'T YOU KNOW NOTHIN'? I'M DOIN' THIS FOR YOU.
EITHER YOU FORK OVER SOME BUCKS FOR THE LOUSY THING, OR I GOTTA FORCE YOU TO PAY ME PROTECTION--
-- BUT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER I GOTTA SHOW SOME GREEN TO SHANK AND THE OTHER STUDS.
NOW YOU WANNA DEAL OR NOT?!
NO, LENNY... NO, I DO NOT. I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE TRYING TO DO FOR ME, AND I... I LOVE YOU FOR IT... BUT NOW YOU ARE ASKING ME TO BETRAY A DREAM TOO PRECIOUS--
LISTEN, OLD MAN! YOU MIGHTA BEEN MY OLD MAN-- AND YOU WON'T EVEN DO THIS FOR ME?!
YOU WON'T EVEN HELP ME WHEN I'M ONLY TRYIN' TO HELP YOU?!
A-ALL RIGHT, LENNY... ALL RIGHT...
I WILL PAY YOU WHAT IT IS WORTH TO A PAWN-BROKER... BUT REMEMBER, NOT EVEN A KING CAN PAY THE TRUE WORTH OF A DREAM.
I AIN'T GOT NO DREAMS, OLD MAN, NOT THE KIND YOU DEAL IN. MY ONLY DREAM IS SURVIVIN' ON THE STREETS. NOW GIMME THE TICKET AND HOLD THE BOX FOR TWO WEEKS-- I'LL REEDEM IT.
NO... NO YOU WON'T, LENNY-- THEY ALWAYS SAY THEY WILL RE-DEEM THEIR DREAMS... BUT I TELL YOU, NO ONE EVER DOES.
YEAH? WELL, I'M DIFFERENT, OLD MAN.
AND WHAT DO YOU KNOW ANYWAY?

NEXT ISSUE: **WHEN THE MUSIC STOPS...**



STAN LEE PRESENTS:

# MOON KNIGHT!

# FLY THE FRIENDLY SKIES

STEVE RINGGENBERG - STORY
MIKE HERNANDEZ and KEVIN DZUBAN - ART
JOE ROSEN LETTERING
BOB SHAREN COLOR

BUT WHEN MOON KNIGHT ARRIVES AT THE BRENNER AIRSHIP WORKS, HE FINDS IT DESERTED AND... EERILY WATCHFUL.
NOT A SOUL IN SIGHT, BUT THERE'S BRENNER'S SHIP BEING PREPPED FOR TAKE-OFF. THIS IS WEIRD. WHY WOULD SOMEONE WANT TO STEAL A FLYING ENVIRONMENTAL LAB?
IT'S TOO STILL--TOO QUIET. SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT HERE, AND I WANT TO KNOW WHAT IT IS.
THUMP!
SOME KIND OF VAPOR! WHATEVER'S BEING PUMPED INTO THE BIG BALLOON IS LEAKING!
THESE TANKS ARE LABELLED ZYKLON B! WHY IS BRENNER HAVING POISON GAS PUMPED ABOARD HIS SHIP?
BETTER SHUT OFF THIS PUMP BEFORE ANY GAS ESCAPES... I FEEL FAINT ALL OF A SUDDEN!
I MUST HAVE INHALED SOME...
CLICK!
SUDDENLY--
FOOTSTEPS--WHAT...
WHAM!
UNNHHH!
WAVES OF PAIN WASH OVER MOON KNIGHT AND A SUFFOCATING EBON CURTAIN DESCENDS.

SOMETIME LATER...
WELCOME BACK TO THE LAND OF THE LIVING.
I CAN'T SEE.
AN AFTEREFFECT OF THE GAS, THE BLINDNESS WEARS OFF IN A FEW HOURS--
--BUT BEFORE IT DOES, YOU WILL BE DEAD, OF COURSE.
FIRST, HOWEVER, YOU WILL TELL ME WHY YOU WERE SNOOPING.
GOT TO STALL.
I HEARD SOMEONE HIRED A GANG OF FEMALE KILLERS TO HIJACK THE SHIP. I WANTED TO CHECK IT OUT.
THE RUMOR IS TRUE. IT WAS I WHO HIRED THE LADIES TO DISPOSE OF THE GUARDS.
I HAVE A BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO ANSWER TO--
--AND I FEAR THEY WOULD NOT APPROVE OF MY PLANS--PARTICULARLY MY PLANS FOR THE GAS!
RELEASE HIM, LADIES. WITHOUT SIGHT, HE IS QUITE HARMLESS.
I SHALL TAKE HIM ON A TOUR OF THE ARK. I WISH TO DEMONSTRATE HOW A SIMPLE RESEARCH VESSEL CAN BECOME AN INSTRUMENT OF FATE.
OKAY, BRENNER, YOU ARE DOUGLAS BRENNER, AREN'T YOU? THE ENVIRONMENTALIST? THE BRAINS BEHIND ARK II?
INDEED. I AM FLATTERED YOU RECOGNIZE ME.
COME.
I'M BLIND--REMEMBER?
THEN FOLLOW THE SOUND OF MY VOICE--UNLESS YOU PREFER TO BE LED LIKE A CRIPPLE.
GOT TO PLAY ALONG AND HOPE FOR A CHANCE--
--OR A MIRACLE!

RIGHT NOW, WE'RE STANDING IN THE SHIP'S NERVE CENTER. ALL AROUND YOU ARE THE COMPUTERS AND INSTRUMENTS THAT FLY THE ARK. THEY'RE IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH THE WEATHER SATELLITES ORBITING THE EARTH.
YOU WANT ME TO BE IMPRESSED? OKAY, I'M IMPRESSED.
THE EQUIPMENT ORIGINALLY WAS INTENDED TO MEASURE THE LEVELS OF POLLUTANTS IN THE AIR AND WATER, AND OTHER ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE.
THE EARTH IS DYING. WE HAVE KILLED OUR MOTHER! BUT, WITH THIS SHIP, I WILL HALT THE PROCESS OF DETERIORATION, ALLOWING THE CYCLE TO RESTART--WITHOUT HUMAN INTERFERENCE. THE EARTH WILL BE SWEPT CLEAN, NOT WITH FIRE AND SWORD, BUT WITH A CLOUD OF PEACEFUL SLEEP. THERE WILL BE NO MORE POLLUTION BECAUSE THERE WILL BE NO MORE POLLUTERS!
I WILL USE THIS FINE TECHNOLOGY FOR A HIGHER PURPOSE. I INTEND TO ELIMINATE THE SOURCE OF ALL POLLUTION--MAN HIMSELF.
BRENNER! YOUR PLAN IS TOTALLY INSANE!
THERE! THE PROCESS HAS BEGUN! IN ONE HOUR, WHEN WE REACH THE PROPER ALTITUDE, THE COMPUTERS WILL AUTOMATICALLY RELEASE THE GAS. NEW YORK CITY WILL DIE! AND AFTER NEW YORK--BOSTON! CHICAGO! DETROIT!--ALL THE REST!
CLICK!
AS FOR YOU... YOUR DEATH AT THE HANDS OF MY "LADIES AUXILIARY" SHOULD PROVIDE A SATISFACTORY AMUSEMENT UNTIL IT'S TIME TO WATCH NEW YORK PERISH.
KEEP RAVING, YOU MADMAN. JUST LET ME GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO PUT MY HANDS ON YOU.
BLAST... VISION'S STILL TOO BLURRY. CAN'T GAUGE THE DISTANCE PROPERLY TO JUMP HIM.
THEN--
THERE HE IS!
TOO LATE! IT'S BRENNER'S WOMEN! MY LAST CHANCE--GONE!

THESE FEEL LIKE SWITCHES... IF I'M LUCKY, THEY'RE *LIGHT* SWITCHES.
ANYWAY, IT CAN'T MAKE THINGS ANY WORSE TO *HIT* THEM.
DARKNESS WON'T SAVE YOU--
CLICK
WHOK!
HER THREAT GAVE ME SOMETHING TO AIM AT--
GOT TO KEEP MOVING... STRIKING OUT--AND HOPE I CONNECT!
PIG!
IF THEY'D HAVE SENSE ENOUGH TO SHUT UP, THEY'D HAVE KILLED ME BY NOW.
BUT AS LONG AS THEY TALK, I'VE GOT TARGETS!
HAK!

YOUR LUCK JUST RAN OUT, HERO. I'M GONNA PIN YOU TO THE WALL!
...FOR LETTING ME KNOW WHERE TO PUNCH!
BOP!
THANKS, LADY...
THIS ONE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING--
UNNGH!
WHUD
NO, NO...DON'T KILL HIM YET--
BLANKED OUT FOR A SECOND...GOT TO GET UP...
YOUR STRUGGLE IS AS ADMIRABLE--
--AS YOUR DEATH WILL BE PAINFUL. OH, YES...YOU DESERVE TO SUFFER FOR WHAT YOU DID TO MY POOR LADIES.

THE FOOLS BELOW— THEIR END SHALL BE MERCIFUL... PAINLESS! THEY RUIN MOTHER EARTH BECAUSE OF IGNORANCE.
BUT YOU! YOU ARE MALICIOUS. YOU DESERVE AGONY!
PREVENTING YOUR FEMME FATALES FROM STOMPING ME TO JELLY WAS PRETTY ROTTEN OF ME.
I'LL APOLOGIZE LATER.
MUCH LATER.
NUGH
YOU...CAN SEE?
THE GAS WORE OFF.
OKAY, ON YOUR FEET, BRIGHT EYES. IF YOU WANT TO DESTROY THE PLANET, YOU'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH ME.
BUT IF YOU'RE HALF AS SMART AS YOU USED TO BE, YOU'LL REALIZE IT'S OVER.
PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT.
NO...NOOOO...THEY'RE KILLING MY MOTHER. SHE MUST BE CLEANSED ...OF THE FILTH--
HIS MIND'S COMPLETELY SNAPPED. HE'LL BE TWICE AS DANGEROUS NOW.

HE WAS CRAZY... BUT HE WASN'T VERY TOUGH. NO WONDER HE NEEDED THOSE MUSCULAR LADIES.
FUNNY... THEY SEEM TO HAVE ABANDONED HIM. PROBABLY SOMEWHERE ELSE IN THE BALLOON--
--HIDING IN AN AIRTIGHT COMPARTMENT IN CASE ANY OF THE GAS REACHES THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE.
BUT THERE WON'T BE ANY GAS.
SHORTLY--
THERE! I'VE FIXED THE COMPUTER SO IT WON'T TRIGGER THE GAS CYLINDERS.
DOOMSDAY'S CANCELLED.
WHAT'S THIS?
"IRON ROSE"!.. MUST BE THE ORGANIZATION THAT BRENNER GOT HIS LITTLE ARMY FROM.
THEY'VE JUST GOTTEN HIGH ON MY LIST OF PEOPLE AND PLACES TO SMASH.
IRON ROSE INC.
LEAPING INTO THE DARKENING SKY, MOON KNIGHT OPENS HIS GLIDER CAPE AND SPEAKS INTO HIS COWL RADIO--
FRENCHY...GET ON THE HORN TO THE AIR FORCE. GIVE THEM THE ARK'S POSITION. TELL THEM TO BRING HER DOWN EASY ...SHE'S CARRYING A HOT CARGO.
THEN YOU CAN PICK ME UP. I MAY HAVE SAVED THE WORLD AND THAT, MY FRIEND, IS TIRING WORK.
END

# KNIGHT MAIL

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

DENNY O'NEIL
EDITOR
LINDA GRANT
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear MOON KNIGHT makers:

MOON KNIGHT #27 was different. Superb, but different. Other comics have attempted mystery stories, but none have been carried off quite so successfully as the one this issue. The only problem was that some of the plot was not very clear – it took me two readings to realize that Fulcanelli had entered DeRais' apartment and answered a call intended for DeRais.

The artwork was good, cleaner then Sienkiewicz, whose art is exquisite but too dark. How about having alternating writers and artists in future issues? Oh, and I agree with D. L. Montgomery's suggestions for the use of Baxter paper for this title.

To sum up, an excellent issue.

Matthew Regan
20 E. 76 Street
New York, NY 10021

Dear Moon Knighters,

"Cop Killer!" in #27 was an up-to-par story. Having Steven Grant as the writer was great, for a change. Also, Joe Brozowski is no pushover. His artwork was terrific.

Despite the absence of the usual team, issue #27 was, as always, great. I have been collecting MOON KNIGHT since issue #1 and I don't intend to stop now. Suggestion: how about a story with Cloak and Dagger from THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN?

Michael Montaluo
642 Jennings Avenue
West Hempstead, NY 11552

**Michael, at present there are no plans for a Cloak and Dagger appearance in MOON KNIGHT, but you can look forward to the CLOAK AND DAGGER Limited Series scheduled for release this summer. Don't miss it!**

Dear knight people:

I hate to tell you this, especially after that magnificent four-page special you did on Moon Knight's choppers in #27, but the copters cannot work! They need a tail rotor or counter-rotating props, one on top of the other, to stop torque. On helicopters, the rotor rotates one way, while a tail rotor or another prop moves in the opposite direction, to keep the engine and body of the 'copter itself from rotating.

I really love the black-and-white covers and the idea of more than one story per issue. I think it's about time MOON KNIGHT met some other heroes, like the Punisher, Captain America or the Wolverine. In my opinion, MOON KNIGHT is the best comic book to come along in years, and I thank you for it.

Mark Korba
13210 Shahan Drive
Dallas, TX 75234

**We stand... or rotate... corrected.**

Dear Denny,

Sorry to hear that the air-conditioning was broken at the Bullpen. Louise Jones was complaining about it in her editorial in KA-ZAR, another of Marvel's direct-sales-only titles. Anyway, I hope it's fixed by now.

The many faces of Moon Knight has got to end soon. Let's face it, would you want a schizo hanging out of a 'copter in a ghost outfit swooping down out of the sky in your city?

I think that, soon as ol' Moon Knight gets his head straight, the book will reach the high status it deserves. So send Marc, Steven, Jake and Moon Knight to group therapy soon.

Stephen Scott Beau Smith
110 Lewis Ave-Apt #7
Barboursville, WV 25504

Dear Denny:

MOON KNIGHT is one of the most original comic characters I've read in my ten years of comics collecting. The thing that makes him interesting and unique is the fact that he's the only hero that's not quite sane. His "serious" problems (if you don't count multiple personalities as serious) only surface occasionally, but the fact is that he's not too tightly glued. Add to this the fact that he is a super hero in his spare time, and all the odd pressures and aggravations that go with that, and I get the feeling that you're building him up for an explosion. And when that happens, it will be some issue!

Rick Platt
Purchase Brook Road
Southbury, CT 06488

Dear Marvel:

In all my eleven years of following comics, I have never been motivated to write a letter before. But then, too, I have never before read a series of comics like the past five issues of MOON KNIGHT. It began with the chills attacking my body after the last page of "Perchance to Scream" in MOON KNIGHT #23 and ended with my respectful silence following #27, "Cop Killer."

Doug and Bill's work on MOON KNIGHT has been impeccable. No words can express the power of the last page of #23 – Marlene's face was a classic in comic history. The quality shown in "Scarlet in Moonlight," "Hit It," etc., didn't slacken off at all with "Cop Killer." Steven Grant created an intricate, well-developed plot which was contrasted nicely by Joe Brozowski's simple, to-the-point artistry.

Marvel Comics, with the consistent magnificence displayed in such titles as MOON KNIGHT, DAREDEVIL, X-MEN and the Epic Comics Group, has created a renaissance in comicdom. Thank you.

David Quiten
Bard College
Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504

Dear Denny:

I must say that your MOON KNIGHT is a comic that is way ahead of its time.

Although the art has been fantastic, I find that some of the plots are so bizarre that the characters suffer. Schizophrenia and occult monsters are just cheap shots at being origi-

nal. I think in-depth character development is needed for both the main and incidental characters.

By the way, I think you should continue using the back cover for the next issue ad, and I love the idea of more than one story in an issue.

Paul Polvwko
135 Lupine Way
Stirling, NY 07980

**Occasionally we will run short back-up stories in these pages – sometimes featuring new talent.**

Dear editor:

While I enjoyed the writing of Steven Grant and the artistry of Joe Brozowski and Kevin Dzubin, the absence of the regular team was obvious. This issue offered an interesting premise and puzzle.

The special featurette about Moon Knight's customized 'copter, by Alan Zelenetz, was well-written and informative. The detail and depth of the feature was outstanding and served to increase the value of #27 as a reference work.

In reply to your request for questions about Moon Knight, I have a few that have nagged at me for most of the last twenty-seven marvelous issues.

I'd really appreciate a better understanding of the powers of Khonshu and the effects of Khonshu's statue upon Moon Knight. MK's revised origin strongly indicates that the Khonshu statue possesses mystic powers which restored and preserved Marc Spector's life. It is also insinuated that the statue temporarily provided the favored moonchild with super-powers. Yet, other times, we have been led to consider the statue to be only a sort-of good luck charm.

Does the statue truly possess mystic powers or is it merely an object of superstition (MK's weird versions of a rabbit's foot)? The "Tales of Khonshu" series seemed to reinforce the former, but to what extent does this apply to Moon Knight's nearly super-human abilities? No normal human could undergo enough training to become Moon Knight. Only an abnormal intervention could enable such a non-superpowered hero to perform such paranormal deeds with such ease.

Maybe the effect of Khonshu is just to make it possible for MK to utilize that extra 90 per cent of brain-energy denied to even the finest trained but normal super-star athlete. Brain power not reserved to intelligence alone, but brought out by some extraordinary event or intervention. For Daredevil, it was a radioactive canister. For Iron Fist, it was a near mystic influence. You get the idea. Was Moon Knight's barrier-breaker the Khonshu statue's occult properties? Are there future plans to deal with this question in depth?

Personally, I like the Khonshu connection. But, in answering your request for questions from us readers, may I suggest that you pursue and explore the above?

And, finally, a last word – about the cover. The Frank Miller/Terry Austin art was very nice, indeed. Here's to 1983 – another super year for MOON KNIGHT!

Wallace Lee Hopkins
Box 428
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

**Whew! We asked for questions, and we got 'em! What do the rest of you think about Wally's letter? Do you want to see us answer the questions in future Moon Knight stories? Or do you have answers of your own? Or would you prefer we left the whole subject shrouded in mystery and open to interpretaion? We're throwing open the letters page for your thoughts on the subject. While we may be risking a raging controversy, we'd like to encourage a fan forum right here, to settle the question one way or the other. How about it?**

Dear Moonies,

I just came back from a super hero costume party. You guessed it, I was dressed as Moon Knight. The costume was made almost entirely of linen, and it was pretty hot under the mask, even though it was a cold night.

But I also got my cape caught in a couple of doors and trampled on tremendously (or tremendously trampled on). Does Moon Knight ever run into these very real problems?

Howard Honigsfeld
No address

**We're sure he does, Howie – after all, his costume has been tattered and torn from time to time.**

**NEXT ISSUE:**
**Moon Knight battles to preserve the last remaining bit of decency left in the most savage of streets in a conclusion you may never forget.**

# BULLPEN BULLETIN SPECIAL

**SPECIAL, INDEED!**

*Christie Scheele*, whose excellent coloring graces *Moon Knight, The Avengers, Power Man and Iron Fist, G.I. Joe, Kull the Conqueror*, and occasionally other Marvel titles as well, took time out recently to be interviewed by that friendly, large but enormous Editor in Chief person, me. I asked her these questions:

**J.S.:** *What does a colorist do? Explain it so that the civilians out there, if any, can understand.*

**Christie:** Okay... the art for the comics is done in black-and-white. Once the pages are all completed except for the coloring, that's when the colorist takes over. Coloring isn't done on the actual art pages — instead the colorist is given photostats of the pages. These "stats" are colored — meaning that the colorist paints in the costume colors, the background colors, and everything — using *Dr. P.H. Martin's Watercolor Dyes*, which are similar to other watercolor paints. Some of the colors are pre-determined — costumes, for instance — you know Spider-Man is red and prussian blue. But, when you're coloring everything around Spider-Man, that's when the creative choices begin. Once they're finished the colored stats are sent along with the black-and-white art pages to the engraver...

**J.S.:** *...where engraver-elves turn them into printing plates, which printer-elves somehow use to make comic books, right? Nah. You and I know what really happens... but, without getting too technical, tell me about the engraving.*

**Christie:** The engravers make copies of the black-and-white art on clear acetates on which they indicate the colors to be printed. They use the colored stats which we provide only as *guides*. In a way, the engravers are the ones who actually "color" the comics. But, they usually stick pretty close to the guides we provide — especially if we write in color codes on the hard parts.

**J.S.:** *Do the engravers ever make mistakes?*

**Christie:** Yes, but not many considering how complicated and difficult the work is. You can usually tell an engraver's mistake — if some character's blonde hair comes out green, or if somebody's supposedly flesh-colored face prints blue... those are probably engraver's errors. Colorists make mistakes too, but ours are harder to spot.

**J.S.:** *You're bi-linguál, right?*

**Christie:** Sí, y dos veces por semana doy clases de inglés a un grupo de venezolanos. Enseñaba español también, antes de colorar para MARVEL, pero ahora prefiero dedicar ese tiempo a este trabajo pare LA CASA DE LAS IDEAS.

**J.S.:** *O-kay... uh... I've always stressed clarity, depth, and "convincingness" as priorities, in that order. How do you feel about that?*

**Christie:** I agree. We're trying to tell stories. If a reader can't make out what something is, he or she can't follow the story. If you put a deep blue sky behind the Black Panther, it doesn't "read" as a night scene — it doesn't read at all. He becomes an indecipherable blob. There are other ways of giving it a nighttime look that are clearer. I guess there might be times to deliberately obscure a figure or scene if the story *demands* it — but to do so arbitrarily in the name of "realism" is a mistake. That only leads to confusion. Coloring pictures which tell a story is different from painting, where in order to achieve a mood you might deliberately work for ambiguity and obscurity because you *want* confusion.

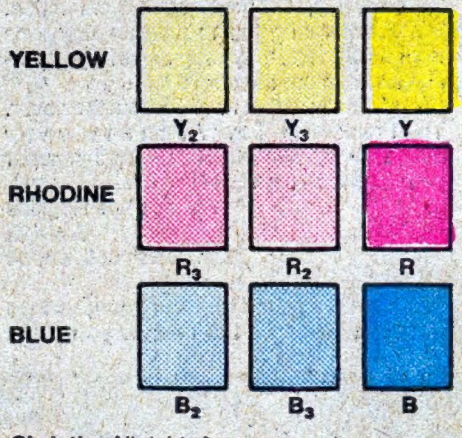
**J.S.:** *You're a painter?*

**Christie:** Yes. My background is in fine art. I've been painting for seven years. I started out doing mostly conceptual abstract work in the minimalist or late modernist tradition, but for the last four years I've been doing figurative, but not terribly realistic work in oils.

**J.S.:** *Why did you get that funny haircut?*

**Christie:** (Laughs) I had to have a change. My hairdresser, Miwa, took one look at me today and *knew* I had to have a change. She suggested it. So I did it. Now that it's curly, I can communicate better with poodles.

**J.S.:** *You mentioned color codes before. I'm going to print a little chart showing the basic colors used in printing comics, and their color code designations, and you explain a little more about them, okay?*




**Christie:** All right. As everyone can see, we use only three colors — each of which can be printed as a light dot pattern, a dense dot pattern or as a solid. By combining these in various ways we can make any of the 64 colors it is possible to print in a comic book.

**J.S.:** *Here are some examples of those colors and their codings:*

**J.S.:** *Now, onward! Who are your favorite artists?*

**Christie:** Goya, Matisse, Avery, Schiele...

**J.S.:** *How about in comics?*

**Christie:** Bill Sienkiewicz draws better than God. Coloring the second issue of *Kull* over John Bolton's striking art was a thrill. I love Frank Miller's layouts and composition, but Klaus Janson's inking and coloring lent so much to the total impact of the work they did together, it's hard to separate their contributions. There are lots of other artists whose work I like. Let's see...

**J.S.:** *What do you hate about your job?*

**Christie:** Oh, artists and editors disagree once in awhile about how something should be approached, and the colorist gets caught in the middle. But, that's just communication...

Being the last to work on a book means a lot of all-night workathons to make deadlines. *But* — the pay's terrific, the benefits are great, the people at Marvel are fabulous — it's the best deal in the world. You get to work on a flexible schedule, usually, which leaves me time for painting, relaxing, and regrouping. You work with intelligent, creative people with interests in comics and other fields too, you get terrific feedback from your co-workers and the readers, and besides that, it's always interesting. No two jobs are the same. It's creative, and fun.

**J.S.:** *Wow. You've got me ready to sign up! Thanks, Christie.*

NEXT MONTH...

More startling revelations!

Till then,

Jim Shooter

## THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

- ☐ **MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #99** — The Thing, and Rom.
- ☐ **TEAM AMERICA #12** — Double-sized *last issue!*
- ☐ **DAZZLER #26**
- ☐ **KA-ZAR #26** — Special wraparound *photo-cover*
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #3**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #194**
- ☐ **DARK CRYSTAL #2**
- ☐ **KING CONAN #16**
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #240**
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #291**
- ☐ **THOR #331**
- ☐ **GHOST RIDER #80**
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS #52**
- ☐ **MOON KNIGHT #31**
- ☐ **INDIANA JONES #5**
- ☐ **U.S. 1 #1** — An all new series of truck in' adventures, by AL MILGROM and by HERB TRIMPE.
- ☐ **CRYSTAR #1**
- ☐ **KULL THE CONQUEROR #1**
- ☐ **SUPER VILLAIN CLASSICS #1**
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #283**
- ☐ **AVENGERS #231**
- ☐ **CONAN #146**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #151** — Reprints **Amazing Spider-Man #13** "The Menace of Mysterio!", by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO
- ☐ **X-MEN #169**
- ☐ **ROM #42**
- ☐ **POWER MAN/IRON FIST #92**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #11**
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #254**
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP #129** — Spider-Man and the Vision.
- ☐ **IRON MAN #170**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #78.**
- ☐ **DEFENDERS #119**
- ☐ **STAR WARS #71**
- ☐ **MASTER OF KUNG FU #124**
- ☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #5**

### MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #87**
- ☐ **CRAZY #94** — The last laugh: Crazy's *final issue!*
- ☐ **BLIP #2**
- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #2**
- ☐ **MARVEL FANFARE #8**
- ☐ **EPIC ILLUSTRATED #17** — Featuring the final chapter of RICK VEITCH'S "Abraxas and the Earthman", the third part of DENNY O'NEIL, CARL POTTS, TERRY AUSTIN, and MARIE SEVERIN'S *"Last of the Dragons"*, plus work by MIKE KALUTA, PEPE MORENO and ARCHIE GOODWIN and a cover painting by TIM CONRAD.

### EPIC COMICS

- ☐ **DREADSTAR #3** — Written, pencled and inked by JIM STARLIN.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

- ☐ **WARLOCK #6** — The conclusion of saga Adam Warlock as chronicled by JIM STARLIN in Avengers Annual #7 and Marvel Two-In-One Annual #2.

upstairs, on the eleventh floor of this building, there is a computer known as The-Computer-Which-Dares-Not-Speak-Its-Name. i've heard it floats in a pool of molten brimstone and there are persistent rumors that it eats old ladies for breakfast. office personnel who work near it have a drawn, haunted expression on their ashen faces and every month or so one runs into the street screaming gibberish.

even the boys in the mail room fear it.

a week ago, TCWDSIN (as we call it. not being able to speak its name) sent down a decree:

ALL MARVEL COMICS SOLD ONLY IN SPECIALTY SHOPS SHALL BE PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY.

including, alas, *MOON KNIGHT.*

i'm sorry, people. i don't like this any more than you do, but i dare not argue with TCWDSIN. (they say the last man who did was transformed into a printed circuit and is currently a component of a Pac Man at an arcade in parsippany, new jersey.)

anyway, the thing does have a bright side. the extra thirty days between issues *should* give us time to correct any tiny glitches which otherwise might mar what we firmly believe is one of the most interesting magazines around. okay. that's cold comfort, but it's all we'll get from TCWDSIN.

and all you'll get from me until a month... make that *two* months from now. see you then.

— denny o'neil

NEXT ISSUE:
THE TURMOIL BEGUN IN

# "A Box of Music for Savage Studs"

COMES TO A SHATTERING CONCLUSION IN--

# "When the Music Stops"...

--CAUGHT BETWEEN THE BRUTALITY OF THE STREETS AND HIS MOTHER'S ANGUISH, A DESPERATE BOY TURNS TO MOON KNIGHT FOR HELP--AND FINDS SOMETHING TOTALLY UNEXPECTED...

**MOON KNIGHT #32**

ON SALE MARCH 29.